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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1234)

Name of Candidate	AISHWARYA SHEORAN		
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENG	Registration Number	506755
Center		Date	27/02/19

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
2	10	
3	10	
4	10	
5	10	
6	10	
7	10	
8	10	
9	10	
10	10	
11	15	
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16	15	
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18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न-पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH & HINDI**
   इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
   सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
   प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
   प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
   प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

16-B, 2nd Floor, Above National Trust Building, Bada Bazar Marg, Old Rajinder Nagar, Delhi-110060

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EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

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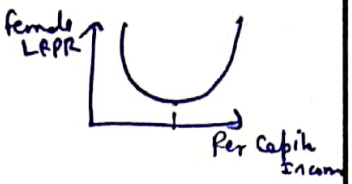
1. Explaining the reasons behind India's lower female labour force participation rates (LFPR), list the steps that have been taken to augment it. What more needs to be done? **(150 Words) 10**

भारत की निम्न महिला श्रमबल भागीदारी दर (LFPR) के पीछे उत्तरदायी कारणों को स्पष्ट करते हुए, इसे बढ़ाने हेतु उठाए गए कदमों को सूचीबद्ध कीजिए। साथ ही, बताइए कि इस दिशा में और क्या किए जाने की आवश्यकता है?

Female LFPR in India remains low (~23%) as compared to 61% in China and 56% in USA due to:-



usually, the graph goes like

1) Political reasons:-

a) Lack of political will to encourage
b) non conducive environment
c) Labour laws (rigid)

2) Economic

a) with enhanced incomes of family, females withdraw
b) usually females are mostly subsidiary workers, therefore, distortions ~~to~~ in labour market lead to job losses.
c) firms reluctant to employ (discriminating)
d) lack of adequate skills (especially in AI etc.)

3) Socio-cultural:-

a) Higher education → India has almost ~~gto~~ closed gap in higher education (as per GPI 2018)
b) Norms and customs → family values etc.
c) Early marriages, patriarchal society.

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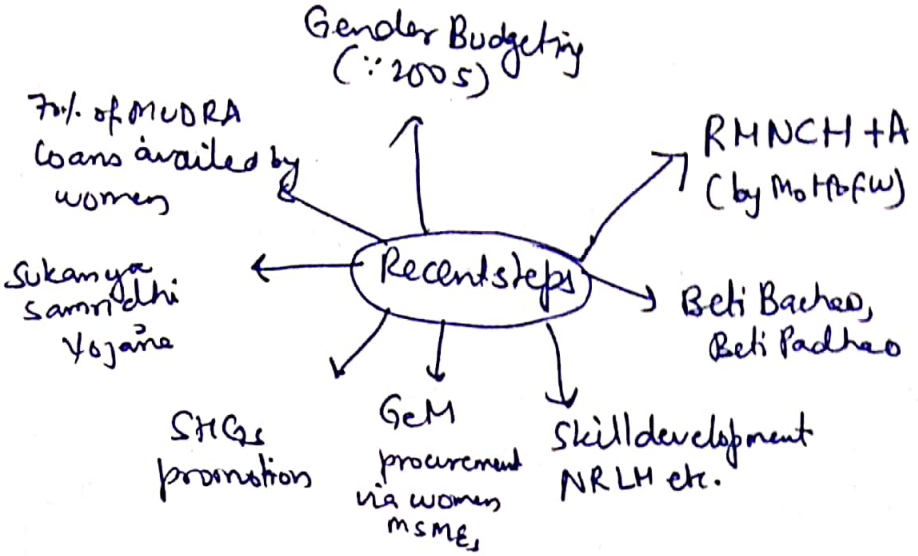
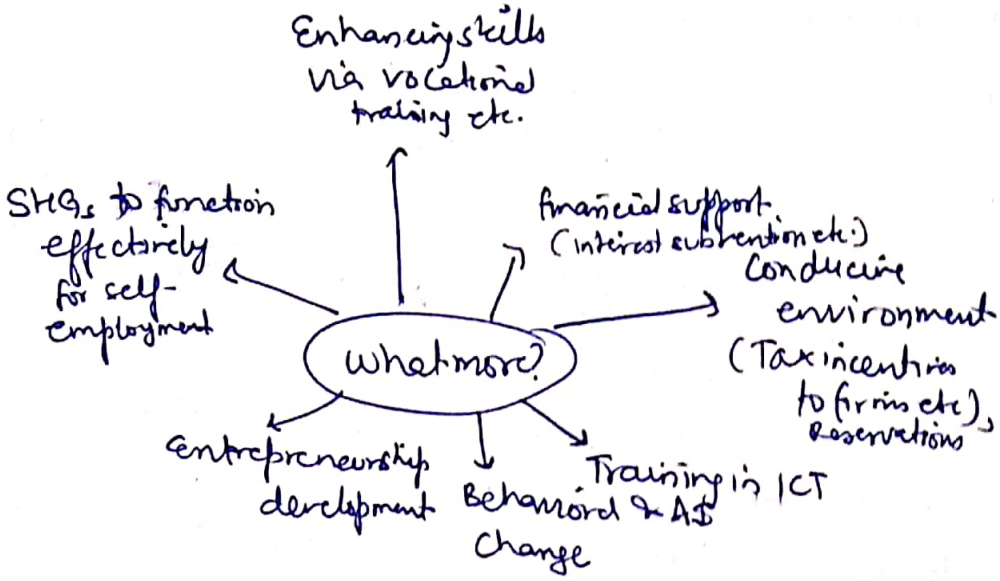
Steps taken:-





These measures will ensure that lost potential of women is realised and their contribution to progress becomes valuable.

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2. Parliamentary scrutiny over public finance is an important aspect of governmental accountability. In this context, discuss the role, importance and challenges in establishing a Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) for effective oversight of budgetary process. **(150 words) 10**

लोक वित्त की संसदीय संवीक्षा सरकारी जवाबदेही का एक महत्वपूर्ण पहलू है। इस संदर्भ में, बजटीय प्रक्रिया की प्रभावी निगरानी हेतु संसदीय बजट कार्यालय (पार्लियामेंट्री बजट ऑफिस: PBO) की भूमिका, महत्व और उसकी स्थापना में आने वाली चुनौतियों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

The constitution of India provides that no money, demand for grant, change in taxes etc. can be taken out of consolidated fund without parliament's permission. However, due to majority of ruling party, the budget (Art 112) gets easily passed without much ado and PAC etc. do post mortem analysis only.

PBO → role :- a) scrutinise budgetary proposals by executive apriori

b) effective review mechanism to ~~ensu~~ monitor progress

c) Encourge good governance and progress

d) adequate ~~est~~ demand for grants and estimates.

Importance → 1) Increase legislature control & checks and balances

2) Incentive to improve performance and results

3) Periodic review will keep Dept. on toes

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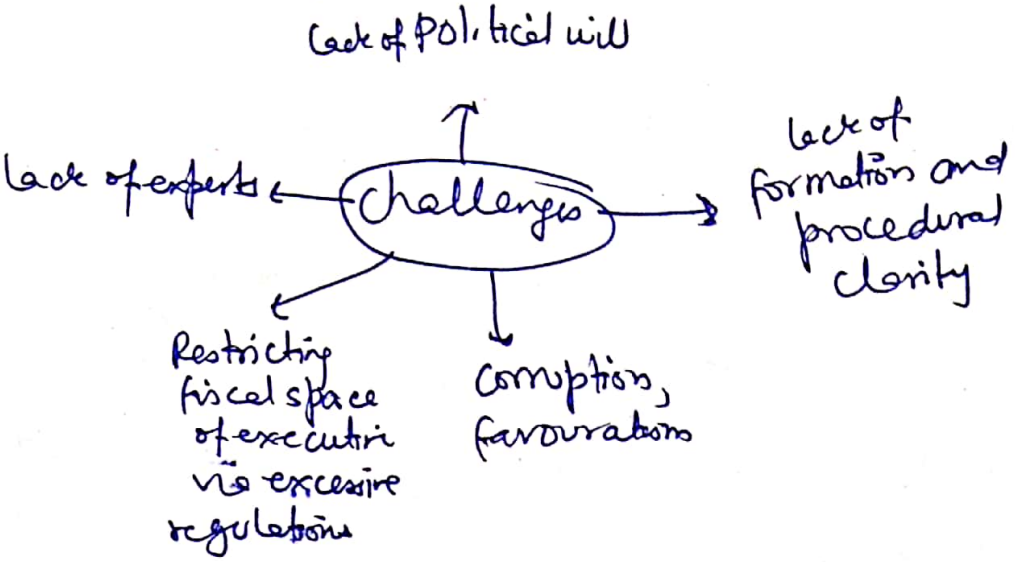
4) Efficency, transparency, Accountability
5) Fiscal discipline → FRBM 2003.



There needs to be an effective monitoring and evaluating mechanism via PBO, with adequate skilled expertise to guide its functions and ensure greater accountability and discipline.

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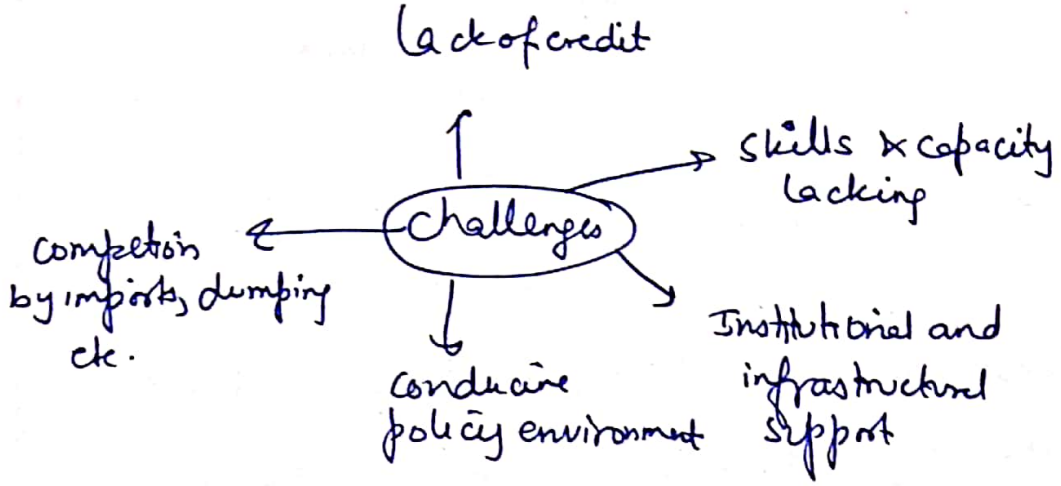
3. Highlight the various challenges faced by MSMEs in accessing credit. Also, mention some of the recent steps taken by the government and RBI to address this issue. **(150 words) 10**

ऋण तक पहुँच स्थापित करने में MSMEs द्वारा सामना की जाने वाली विभिन्न चुनौतियों पर प्रकाश डालिए। साथ ही, इस समस्या का समाधान करने के लिए सरकार और RBI द्वारा हाल ही में उठाए गए कुछ कदमों का उल्लेख कीजिए।

MSMEs are defined as firms with turnover less than 5cr, 25cr and 250cr.



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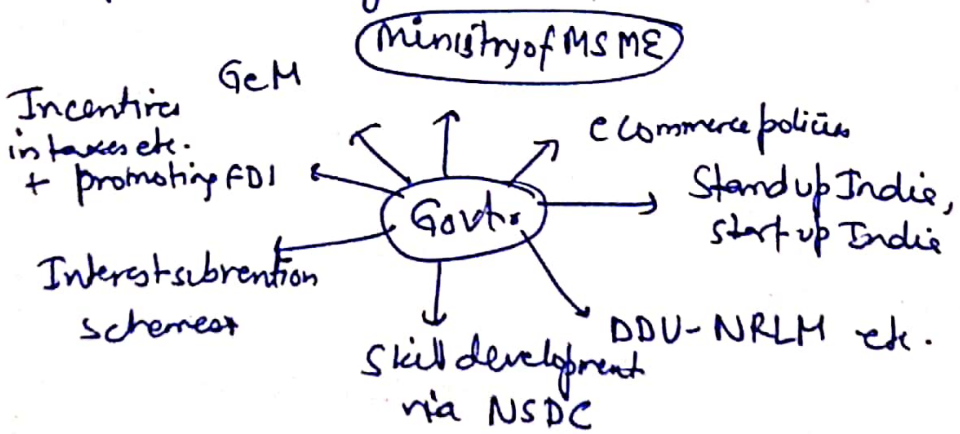

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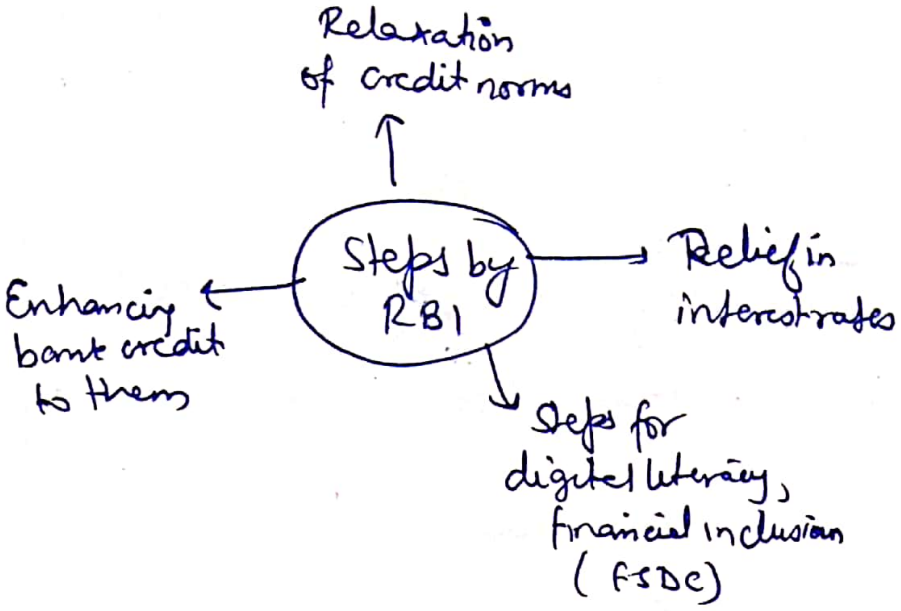

These measure will ensure boost in MSME development providing self-employment and empowerment to millions of vulnerables and poor.

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4. By rebalancing project risks between the public and private sectors, the HAM model has encouraged investments in the road infrastructure sector. Discuss. **(150 words) 10**

सार्वजनिक और निजी क्षेत्रकों के मध्य परियोजना जोखिमों को पुनर्संतुलित कर, HAM मॉडल ने सड़क अवसंरचना क्षेत्रक में निवेश को प्रोत्साहित किया है। चर्चा कीजिए।

HAM model provides the right balance ~~between~~ in risk allocation between public and private entities.

40% Investment by Government
60% by private

features

land acquisit^n, env. clearance by Government

opt operation & mgt. by Private

Rebalancing of Risks :-

Private sector	Public sector
1) only has to pay 60% + operation and mgt. cost	Reduces upfront expenditure (only 40%) hence can divert resources elsewhere.
2) No risk of land acquisition etc.	Considerable risk transferred to private
3) Willingness of private sector increases	
4) for longer period	long term nature favourable

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Recently used by NHAI, HAM proved to be significant in promoting investments in infrastructure (avg 27km/day highways being built) and reducing risks for both parties ⇒ win-win situation.

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5. In view of the growing significance of FinTech innovations, discuss the potential and challenges of mainstreaming FinTech in Indian economy.

(150 words) 10

फिनटेक (FinTech) नवाचारों के बढ़ते महत्व को देखते हुए, भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था में फिनटेक को मुख्यधारा में लाने की संभावनाओं और चुनौतियों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

FinTech innovations are innovations in ~~financial~~ financial instruments driven by ICT to boost service sector growth like computerised trading etc.

Significance :-

1) Boosting growth
2) Employment generation
3) FDI and technology transfer
4) Increase private investment
5) Improving finance market

Potential :- ~~Challenges~~

1) Skilled workforce
2) ICT capabilities
3) Liberalised policy environment
4) Tech. driven innovations and support to R&D

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Challenges:-

1) financial illeteracy
2) Need to enhance skills
3) Need to boost domestic investment and infrastructure
4) Incentives and concessions to these need to be given
5) Restricted market and multiple regulators (RBI, SEBI etc)
6) Restricted insurance market

Solution lies in realising these gaps and streamling and promoting their development via ICT boost and skill development.

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6. With India striving to achieve its development objectives, examine how blue economy can help in pursuing the objectives of economic development and ecological sustainability. (150 words) 10

भारत द्वारा अपने विकास उद्देश्यों को प्राप्त करने के प्रयास में, परीक्षण कीजिए कि किस प्रकार नीली अर्थव्यवस्था आर्थिक विकास और पारिस्थितिकीय संधारणीयता के उद्देश्यों को प्राप्त करने में सहायता कर सकती है।

Being the fastest major developing economy in world, India's progress is on the right track, however certain gaps remain like:-

1) Inequalities (social & economic)
2) regional differences (back wash effect)
3) Resource scarcity and financial gaps
4) Infrastructural issues etc.

Blue Economy :- based on harnessing potential of India's vast coastline (7516 km) and territorial waters.

Benefits :-

1) Economic development :-

a) Employment generation → in CEZs, coastal areas, fisheries

b) Investment → in coastal regions for their development (both public & private)

c) Resources → enhanced access and availability of oil, polymetallic nodules, ~~aquaculture~~ (energy security)

d) ~~Aqual~~ Aquaculture, pisciculture improved

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e) HRD and social security; enhanced living standard in backward coastal regions.
f) Projects like Sagarmala for connectivity.

2) Ecological sustainability:

a) Proper EIAs to ensure sustainable development
b) Focus on eco-friendly techniques
c) R&D on ecosystem and its needs
d) Strategic protection to fragile biodiversity and resources.
e) Eco tourism

These measures focussing on blue economy will ensure employment + development holistically and give boost to coastal economy and its sustainability.

However they have to be cautiously applied and carefully studied in view of impact on ecosystem and marine life.

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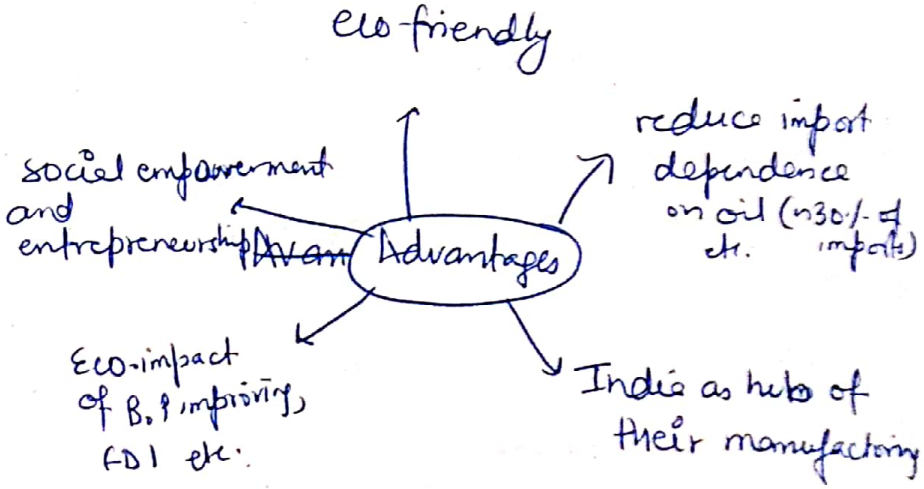
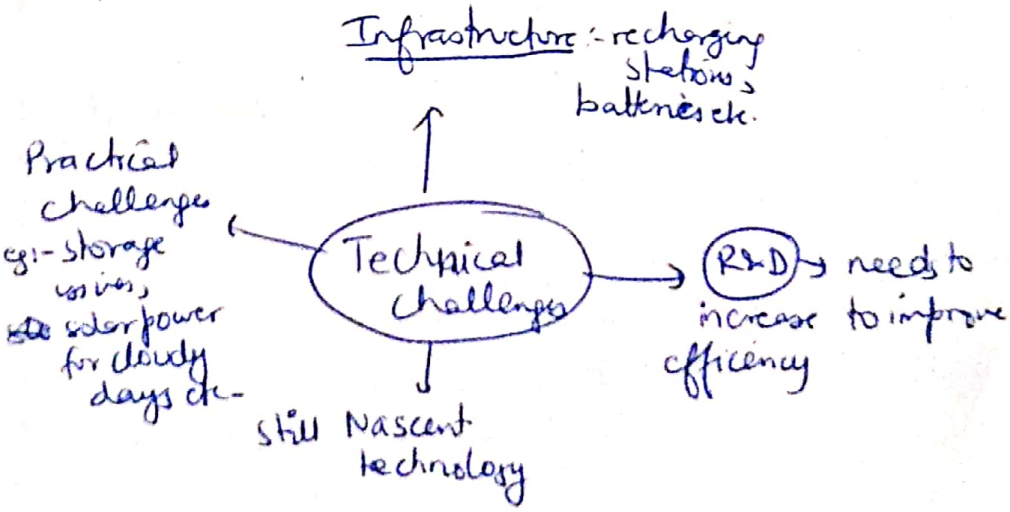
7. Despite many advantages associated with Electric Vehicles, there are many technical and commercial challenges for mainstreaming them. Discuss.

(150 words) 10

इलेक्ट्रिक वाहनों से संबद्ध कई लाभों बावजूद, उन्हें मुख्यधारा में लाने के मार्ग में कई तकनीकी और व्यावसायिक चुनौतियाँ हैं। चर्चा कीजिए।

With increasing global warming, adverse climate changes, temperature rising (by 1.2°C in India as per IPCC report), there is an enhanced awareness on the urgent need to switch to e-vehicles





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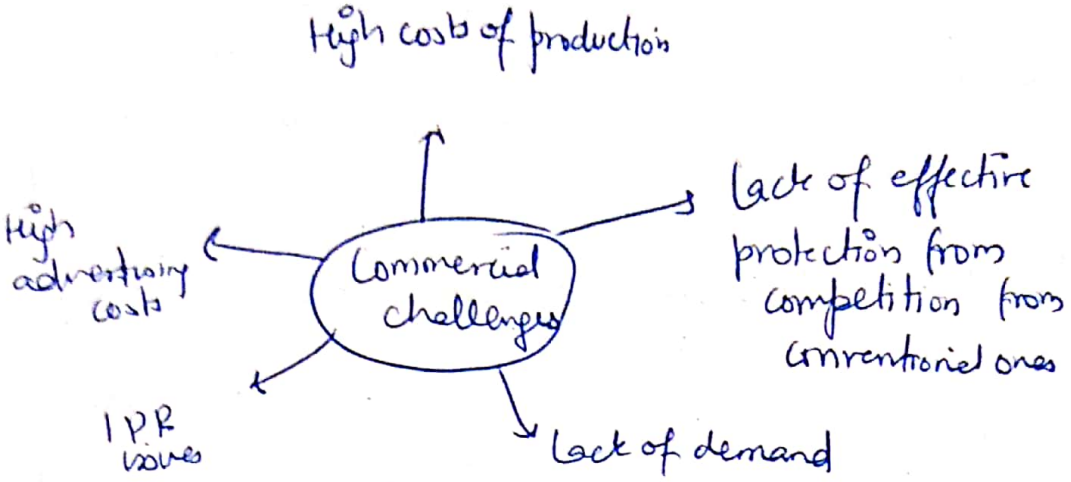

Hence, these challenges need to be met by ensuring :-

a) adequate tax/fiscal incentives
b) Enhanced R&D
c) FDI and private investment
d) Awareness generation

Schemes like FAME etc. are steps in right direction

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8. A rapidly changing economic structure and demography require a comprehensive employment policy to address the multitude of challenges that might arise in future. Discuss in the context of India. **(150 words) 10**

तेजी से बदलती आर्थिक संरचना और जनसांख्यिकी को भविष्य में व्युत्पन्न हो सकने वाली अनेक चुनौतियों से निपटने के लिए एक व्यापक रोजगार नीति की आवश्यकता है। भारत के संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए।

Over the past decade, India has witnessed tremendous changes in

a) Economic structure → 1) changes in share of GDP (~60% by service sector now)
2) changes in export composition (mostly service and merchandise)
3) changes in employment (though slow, but transition to non agricultural sector)
etc.

b) Demography → presently the opportunity of demographic dividend (majority = working population 15-59 yr)
+ ↓ decrease in TFR and BR.

Need for comprehensive policy:- Challenges:-

1) Jobless growth → service sector largely capital & skill intensive ∴ ~~disguised~~ poor labour absorptive capacity of growth
2) Disguised unemployment → in agriculture
3) High unemployment rate → ~3.5% (mostly educated, Post Graduates etc)

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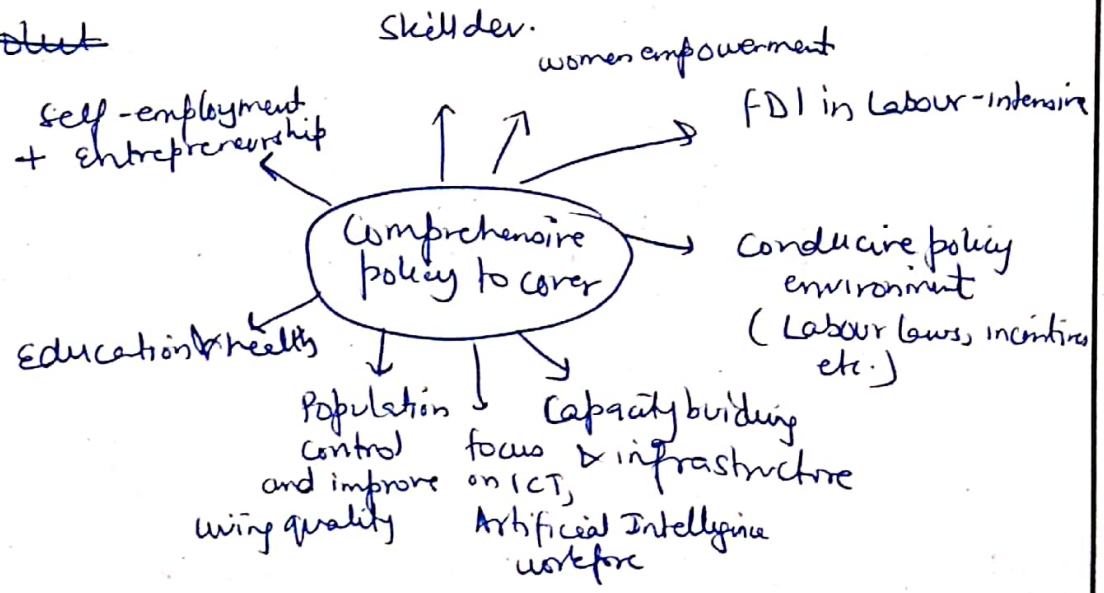
d) Lack of skills and vocational training → need to change curriculum + align all training centres to NSQF (by NSDC)

e) Enhance saving and investment rate → currently poor Investment/GDP ratio (29%)

f) Women empowerment → $LFPR_{female}$ ⇒ 23% (compared to 61% in China)

g) future enhanced dependency ratio → demographic dividend only till 2055 (WB report), post which ageing population (already in South states)

~~Solut~~



Steps like 'Skill India', Start up India, DDU-NRLM, Digital India etc. are steps in right direction to avail the demog bonus for high growth.

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9. Examine the need for a comprehensive policy on e-commerce in view of its domestic expansion as well as safeguarding India's interests globally.

(150 words) 10

ई-कॉमर्स पर एक व्यापक नीति की आवश्यकता का इसके घरेलू विस्तार के साथ-साथ वैश्विक स्तर पर भारत के हितों की सुरक्षा को देखते हुए परीक्षण कीजिए।

With increasing role of ICT in modern economy e-commerce has seen tremendous growth (service sector ~ 60% of GDP → mostly in IT), yet the regulatory mechanism remained opaque.

Need :-

1) Clarity :- in definition of e-commerce and its policies (two types → marketing, inventory)

2) Data protection :- safeguards to right to privacy (in line with SC judgement & Srikrishna Committee)

3) Protection to MSME → from predatory practices & dumping via e-commerce route

4) FDI regulation → Since its not allowed in automatic route in multibrand, many firms like Walmart were trying to escape via e-commerce

5) Data localisation → sovereignity of data of India & its citizens

6) Regulatory oversight → over their functions via central agency

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7) Grievance redressal → for effective protection to consumer.

The new e-commerce policy is a welcome step in protecting interests of small traders, MSMEs and safeguarding data of our citizens. However, there needs to be a balanced approach so as to ~~ensure~~ still attract enough FDI and investment in ~~its~~ this dynamic sector providing employment and choices to millions.

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10. Discuss the need for deepening bond markets for Indian economy. Also, identify the reasons behind weak development of bond market in India.

(150 words) 10

भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था के लिए बॉण्ड बाजारों को व्यापक बनाने की आवश्यकता पर चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, भारत में बॉण्ड बाजार के अल्प विकसित होने के कारणों की पहचान कीजिए।

A poorly functioning bond market in India not only hampers growth, but also investments and ~~is~~ ~~re~~ much needed capital formation.

Need for corporate bond markets

1) Resource gap → can complement resources needed for development

2) low Investment/GDP ratio → need to increase pvt. investment rate to boost growth

3) Infrastructure development → and gap filling (via PPP, VGF etc.)

4) Burdened banking sector → NPAs + credit crunch + IL&FS crisis
Hence need fresh infusion of funds & credit

5) Competitiveness → needs to be enhanced to make financial systems ~~resilit~~ resilient and globally competitive and efficient

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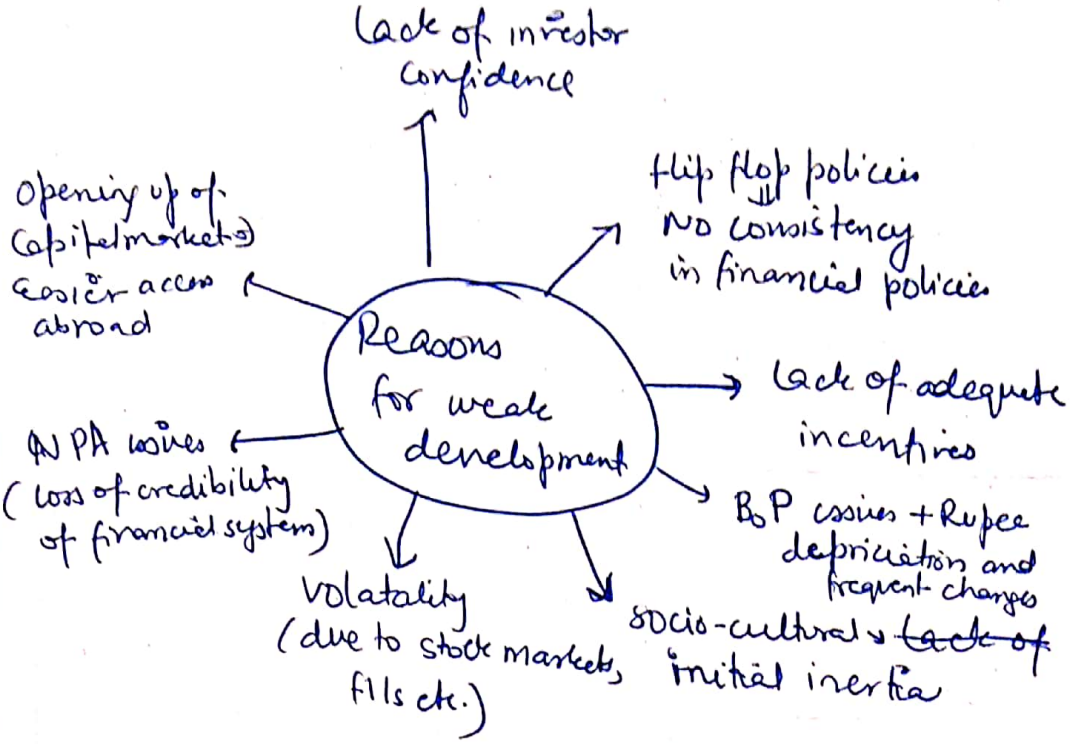
6) Reduce external dependence → will help reduce depence on external borrowings and improve BoP and CAD.



There needs to be an effective financial and monetary strategy to infuse confidence in investors along with adequate incentives to build a credible bond market.

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11. In the context of IL&FS crisis, explain the risks that the economy faces due to laxity in the regulation of the Non Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs).

(250 words) 15

IL&FS संकट के संदर्भ में, गैर-बैंकिंग वित्तीय कंपनियों (NBFCs) के विनियमन में शिथिलता के कारण अर्थव्यवस्था के समक्ष आने वाले जोखिमों की व्याख्या कीजिए।

NBFCs are financial intermediaries involved in lending big infrastructural projects ~~at~~ (long-term) and sourcing funds by raising in short term money markets and rolling it over.

IL&FS crisis happened due to :-

1) Mismatch in short term loans liabilities and long term nature of its investments

2) liquidity crisis (cash crunch) due to global tightening (high interest rates) and tightened monetary policy turned into an insolvency crisis.

3) IL&FS had in turn, lent to many NBFCs, thus disrupting the entire financial market

~~frant~~ ~~finally government to~~

4) Lax regulation → though NBFCs are under RBI, their regulatory oversight is opaque ~~to~~ due to

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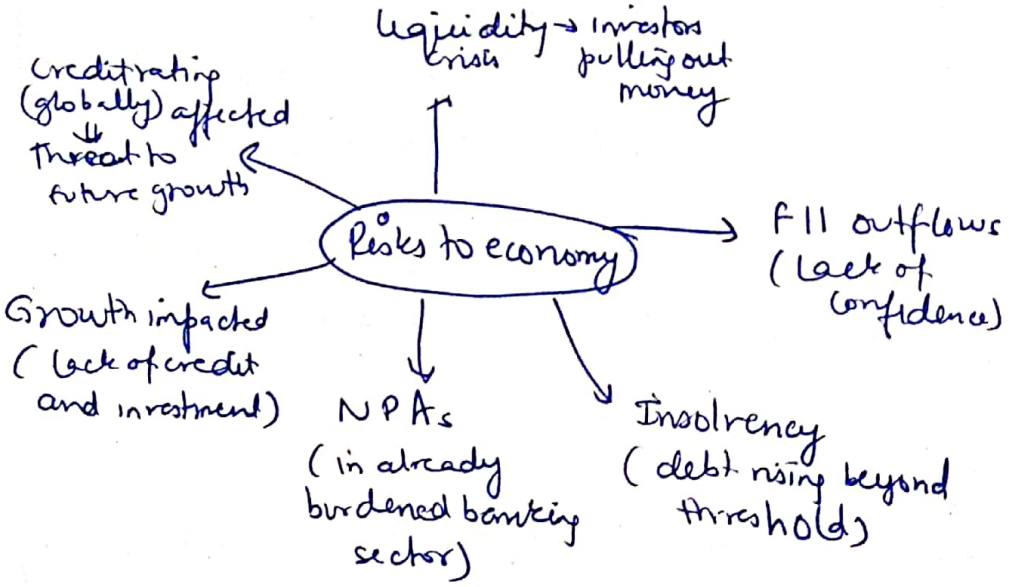
Lack of representative offices in India and non transparent functioning

5) Management issues → ill functioning board and management of assets - liabilities

Finally the government had to give assurance of bail in and replace the board (2nd time in history of India) to ensure the investors and creditors.



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~~Ther~~ Besides support provided by government, there needs to be fresh infusion of liquidity, capital and confidence in investors

+ need for structural reforms in ~~bank~~ banking and financial sector

+ Effect risk management by NBFCs

+ Regulatory powers to RBI need to increase to oversee their board's functioning etc.

inorder to ensure continous and dynamic functioning of financial market and economy.

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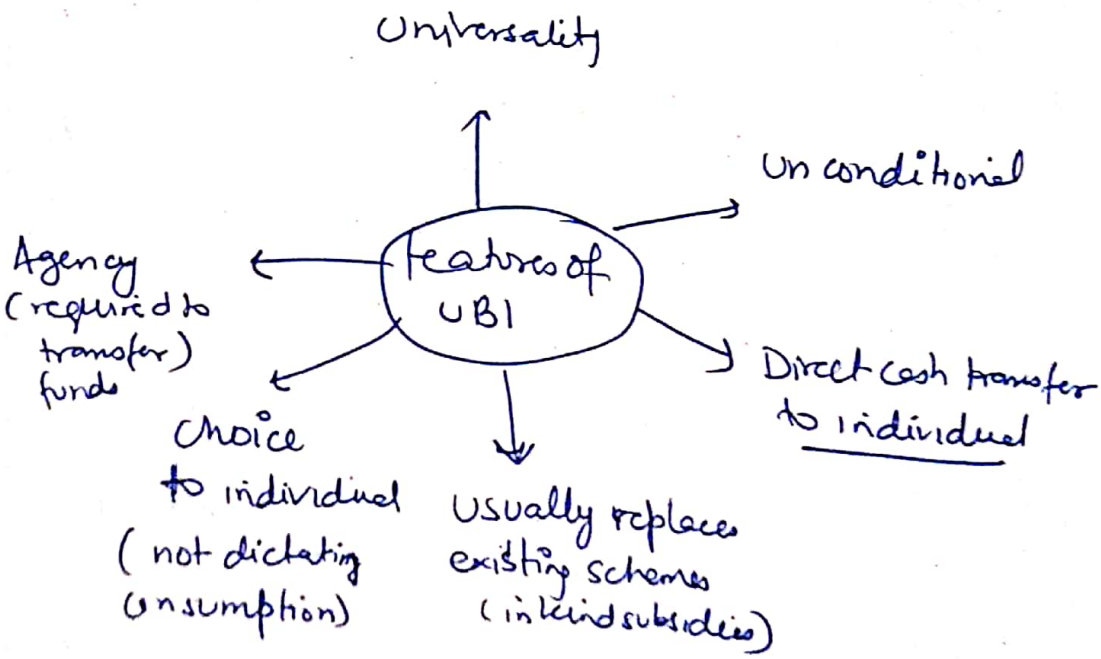
12. What do you understand by Universal Basic Income (UBI)? Discuss the advantages that it presents over the existing social protection schemes in India. Also, identify the criticism associated with the idea of UBI for a country like India. **(250 words) 15**

सार्वभौमिक मूलभूत आय (यूनिवर्सल बेसिक इनकम: UBI) से आप क्या समझते हैं? भारत में वर्तमान सामाजिक सुरक्षा योजनाओं की तुलना में इसके द्वारा प्रस्तुत किए जाने वाले लाभों की विवेचना कीजिए। साथ ही, भारत जैसे एक देश के लिए UBI के विचार से संबद्ध आलोचना की पहचान कीजिए।

Universal basic income :- means providing a basic cash transfer to all citizens irrespective of caste, economic status, race etc. in order to ensure minimum standard of dignified life.



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Advantages over others

~~1) Identi~~

Issues in earlier schemes	Pros of UBI
1) Identification issues in correctly targeting and defining	Universal, hence no issue
2) Leakages and corruption	access by everyone individually and directly ∴ No leakages
3) Often undue advantage taken by richer sections subsidising the poor	unconditional and via DBT so no subsidising + Rich may be given option to opt out
4) Wastage of resources and funds (subsidies ~ 4.6% of GDP in India)	No wastage and direct allocation
5) In total ~ 5.5% of GDP due to CSS like MNREGAct.	As per ES estimates, will cost ~~around~~ ~ 4.4% (Other CSS removed)

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Critism :-

1) Removing CSS → like MNREGA etc. could prove to be disruptive as these are highly essential for social welfare

2) Infrastructure → required is enormous (in ICT etc.) hence, can only be done gradually

3) Inflation → can reduce living std. if cash amount is fixed (like NPS for past 12 yrs).

4) Exclusion → of SC/STs, vulnerables due to lack of bank accounts, Aadhaar etc.

5) Intra-household distribution → male dominant society, therefore necessary expenditure on food etc. may reduce and spending on alcohol etc. may increase ⇒ malnutrition.

Recent steps like PM KISAN, Rythu Bandhu etc. are in direction of phased introduction of UBI, ~~so~~ but there needs to be a gradual shift and phased withdrawl of other subsidies along with awareness generation to ensure adequate protection to poor and vulnerable while enhancing efficiency.

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13. Critically examine the practice of resorting to farm loan waivers as a means to alleviate agricultural distress. (250 words) 15

कृषि संकट को कम करने के एक साधन के रूप में कृषि ऋण माफी का सहारा लेने की प्रथा का समालोचनात्मक परीक्षण कीजिए।

Due to the dynamically changing political scenario with emergence of multi-party politics and populist tendencies to win ~~elo~~ electoral majority, farm loan waivers seem to be the easiest approach to attract voters ~~leading~~ resulting in serious socio-economic implications.

few benefits:-

1) Immediate relief to farmers → from indebtness and ~~unpredicti~~ unpredictable monsoonal losses.

2) short term political gains

3) short lived enhanced standard of living for poor farmers.

However, these myopic waivers have certain serious consequences on economic health like

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a) Short term → don't solve deep structural issues core to the agrarian distress like linkage problem, poor infra, lack of public investment, marketing etc.

b) Moral hazard → encourage NPAs, wilful defaults, non repayment

c) Expectations → of future waivers prevents even others from paying + pressure on future governments

d) Banks reluctant → to lend in future ⇒ further shrinkage of formal lending in rural areas; ~~as~~ increased informal lending ⇒ cycle of indebtness

e) Shifts focus → from actual public investment and diverts resources

f) Landless, tenants etc. ignored

g) Identification problem → targeting and identifying beneficiaries.

Therefore, loan waivers don't provide long term solution to the growing agrarian distress ~~due to~~ and we need :-

1) Public investment in irrigation etc. (like PMKSY etc)

2) Increase credit access and availability (bank correspondents etc)

3) Insurance → for crop losses to hedge risk (PMFBY etc)

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4) fixing loopholes ~~a~~ in implementation and lax administration; timely completion of projects etc.

5) ~~In~~ Attract FDI, contract farming, pvt. investment

6) Amend APMC Act to increase direct access to ~~mkt~~ market and global supply chain

7) Schemes like Rythu Bandhu, KALIA etc. can be applied instead. (direct cash transfers)

~~Rece~~ Recently announced PM-KISAN in budget 2019 could prove to be a game changer in alleviating rural distress.

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14. Highlight the factors responsible for rise in the number of start-ups in India in recent years. Analyzing the challenges in the existing start-up ecosystem, suggest some measures to resolve them. **(250 words) 15**

विगत वर्षों में भारत में स्टार्ट-अप की संख्या में वृद्धि के लिए उत्तरदायी कारकों पर प्रकाश डालिए। वर्तमान स्टार्ट-अप पारितंत्र की चुनौतियों का विश्लेषण करते हुए, उनका समाधान करने हेतु कुछ उपायों का सुझाव दीजिए।

Start-ups are new entrepreneurial initiatives utilizing the ICT potential available in India towards achieving self-employment and growth. (>20,000 in India).

factors responsible:-

Political :-

a) Tax incentives → angel tax exemptions, tax exemptions for loyrs etc.

b) Schemes like Start-up India, SVET etc.

c) Interest subvention schemes + Capital grants &

d) Training (by MSDE) & various programmes like iPrism etc. by MoS&T

e) Budgetary support to boost their growth.

f) Atal Tinkering Labs etc. to boost Innovation

Economic :-

a) FDI → boost in foreign investment ~~and~~

b) Global demand for information tech. intensive products

c) Robust ICT infrastructure + internet connectivity

d) Adequate skills + AI workforce

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e) ECB norms relaxed.

Social :-

a) Highly skilled workforce suitable for these

b) New spirit of entrepreneurship (especially in wake of jobless growth).

Environmental :- with climate change impacts, boost to renewable energy, waste treatment initiatives and solutions.

International → TRIPS and conducive IPR policies
+ Enhanced demand.
+ FDI for inflow of tech. support and collaboration.

Challenges :-

1) Tax structure :- compliance costs; angel tax norms still burdensome.

2) Infrastructural links missing → especially in rural areas (digital divide)

3) Majority of population still lacks skills required (to boost AI, machine learning etc.)

4) Volatality of FDI, FII ('hot money')

5) ~ 42% of new start-ups become unprofitable due to lack of demand

6) Cut throat competition

7) IPR issues

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Measures:-

1) Innovation → boosting creativity and scientific & tech. temper at grassroots level (AIM in right direction)

2) HRD → public Investment in skill development, ~~edu~~ education, enhancing productivity etc.

3) Catching up on AI → national mission on AI is right step (by NITI Aayog)

4) Tax reforms → reducing burden; concessions; streamlining; single window compliance etc.

5) Reducing digital divide → for balanced growth in all regions + conducive policies (presently Guj. dominates)

6) Attracting FDI and domestic investment → support via angel funds; VGF etc.

7) Cooperative and competitive federalism → like Start-up Index by NITI Aayog.

To harness the immense start-up potential, these measures need to be implemented with regular review mechanisms to monitor their progress.

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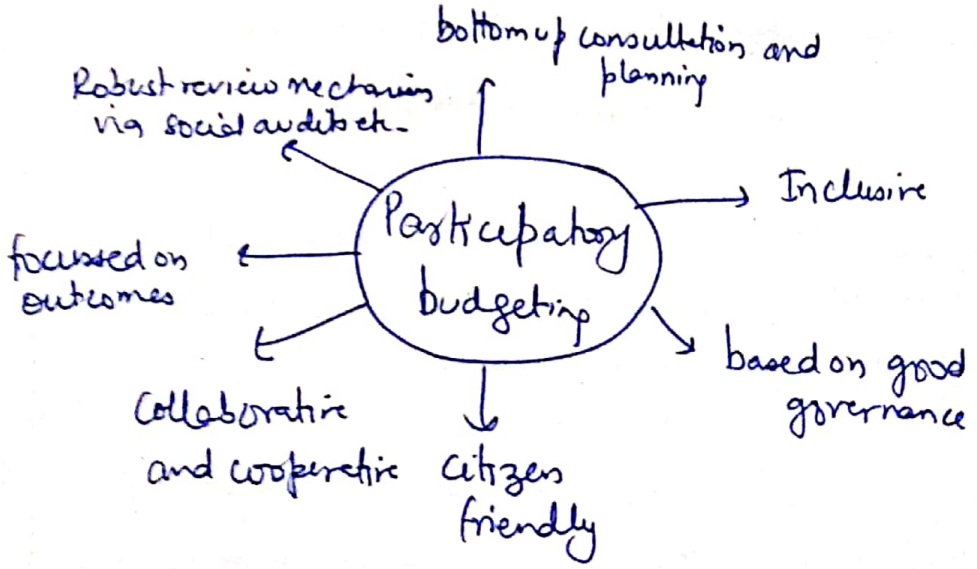
15. Discuss the idea of participatory budgeting and its significance for India. Also, identify the challenges in mainstreaming participatory budgeting in India.

(250 words) 15

पार्टिसिपेटरी बजटिंग के विचार और भारत के लिए इसके महत्व की विवेचना कीजिए। साथ ही, भारत में पार्टिसिपेटरी बजटिंग को मुख्यधारा में लाने के समक्ष आने वाली चुनौतियों की पहचान कीजिए।

Participatory budgeting refers to the practice of estimation of the fiscal (tax, expenditure etc.) and financial policies of the government ~~via~~ through an inclusive ~~and~~ approach i.e taking views of all stakeholders (civil society, local government etc.) into account.



Significance for India:-

1) Need for wider consultation:- budget making is ~~highly~~ highly centralised and secretive

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2) Enhanced scrutiny :- prior to implementation by a) Legislature and standing committees
b) civil society, media

3) Promote welfare :- via local participation and citizen friendly approach

4) PRI, ULBs :- need to involve them in making sub-plans, local area development strategies, fund devolution (spirit of constitutional (A) 73rd, 74th)

5) Bottlenecks → reduce leakages of funds, corruption, lax administration and implementation by regular social audits and review.

6) Federalism → cooperative and collaborative by taking state's view (∵ their budgets are also impacted by centre's budget & grants).

7) Outcome based :- on real time analysis of performance ; also use of outcome budgeting, ZBB etc.

8) Empowerment :- of communities, regional bodies etc.

9) Efficency, transparency and accountability

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Challenges:-

1.) Lack of linkages → between heads and their uses

2.) Capacity issues → lack of adequate skills, institutional capabilities

3) Lack of awareness → of the technicalities to general population

4) Populism:- leading to skewed policy allocation etc. and avoiding any meaningful discourse

5) Monitoring mechanism → almost absent due to Incremental budgeting and short term (1yr) nature

6) Delays and lax implementation → states ignorant; various politico-social issues

7) Political will → lacking

8) Bottom-up approach of budgeting → enhanced costs etc. + inefficiency

TO mainstream participatory budgeting requires political will + capacity + increased role of civil society and media to pressurise the government into and shifting focus on 'outcomes' rather than 'outlays'.

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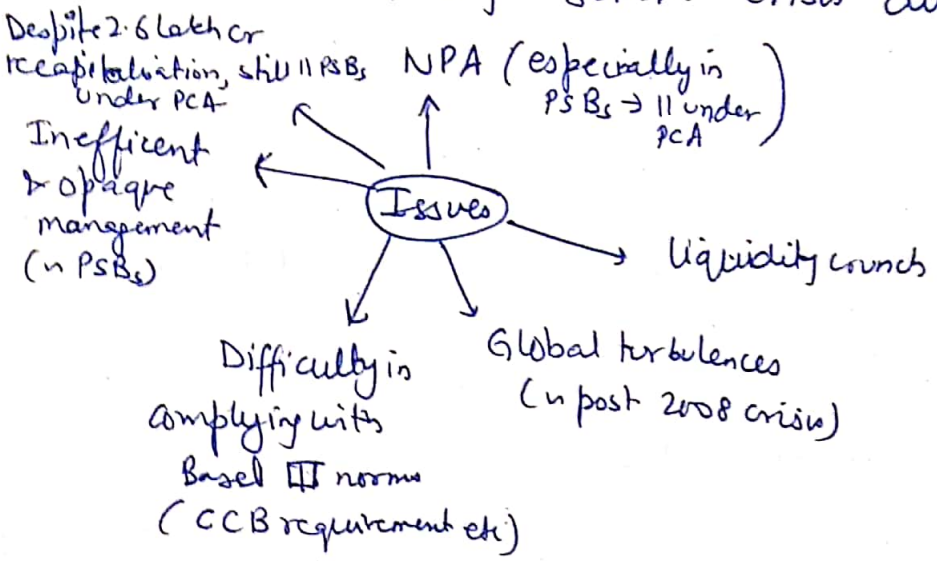
16. Can the consolidation of banks help in stemming the existing problems in the banking sector? Discuss. **(250 words) 15**

क्या बैंकों का समेकन बैंकिंग क्षेत्रक में वर्तमान समस्याओं से निपटने में सहायता कर सकता है? चर्चा कीजिए।

Over the last few years, banking sector in India has been facing severe crisis due to:-



Recently, first 3-way merger of
a) Vijaya Bank
b) Dena bank (transferors)
c) Bank of Baroda (transferee) was conducted for:-

1) Efficency enhancement
2) Increase global standing, standards, quality (2nd largest entity now in India)
3) Economies of scale → by merger ; synergy
4) Reduce costs and unproductive assets → improve overall balance sheet and lending capacity

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5) Capacity building → skill enhancement; knowledge dissemination; best practices adopted

6) Expansion of network :- areawise and consumerwise

7) NPA issue → better positioned interms of capital norms and efficency in management.

However, there are still constraints :-

1) Pulling down :- due to high NPAs of poor performing bank, it may reduce profits of merged entity

2) Doesn't solve core issue - amalgamation of poor performing banks ~~doesn't~~ doesn't necessary leads to increasing returns as structural issues remain unaddressed.

3) Impact ~~of~~ on staff :- disincentives for poor bank's staff and demoralisation of better one

4) RBI's regulatory powers → less for PSBs (not under RBI Act A34)

Hence, despite vigorous efforts of ~~govt~~ government to infuse fresh capital and energy by merger etc. into banking sector, some structural issues remain to be tackled to utilise their full potential.

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17. There is a high cost of compliance as well as complexities associated with existing labour laws at centre and state levels. Discuss. What steps have recently been taken by the central government to address these challenges? **(250 words) 15**

केंद्र और राज्य स्तरों पर वर्तमान श्रम कानूनों के साथ अनुपालन की उच्च लागत के साथ-साथ जटिलताएँ भी जुड़ी हुई हैं। चर्चा कीजिए। इन चुनौतियों से निपटने के लिए केंद्र सरकार द्वारा हाल में क्या कदम उठाए गए हैं?

With more than 100 overarching and overlapping state and central labour laws, their very purpose for ensuring protection and employment security to labourers stand defeated due to:-

1) Complexity and confusion :- various laws like Min. Wages Act, Industrial dispute act etc. often overlap with state/local laws ⇒ Chaos

2) Hindering investment :- in labour intensive manufacturing due to increased compliance cost.

3) Missing middle :- ~~b/w 6~~ most industries have either a) ≤ 6 labourers or b) ≥ 100 labourers as middle ones can't bear the brunt of compliances.

4) Rigid and biased → against the employers; labour tribunals often in favour of labourers; provisions restricting hiring / firing even for legit reasons.

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5) Trade Unions → with enhanced bargaining powers often leading to undue enhancement of wages (at mercy of other labourers); encourages unrest.

6) Increased contractualisation → to evade them ⇒ increase vulnerability and informalisation (~85%)

Steps taken:-

1) Trade Unions Act 2018 → to register and regulate trade unions and activities.

2) Promotion of arbitration and conciliation → to reduce disputes

3) Cooperative federalism:- streamling various laws ~~under umbr~~ and undoing unnecessary ones.

4) Enhancing flexibility → especially in SEZs, CEZs, NIMZs etc.

5) Minimum Wages Act → by centre government to guide the states for fixing it.

6) Reducing paperwork, e-biz portal, simplification of tax procedures, GST etc.

In a developing nation like India, it is essential to ensure adequate balance of interests of all stakeholders by streamlining and converging various laws to ensure

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effective implementation + compliance and at the same time attracting pvt. investment to make India a global manufacturing hub by 2025.

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18. Why have Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in India not been able to achieve the desired objectives? In this context, suggest some measures to revive SEZs in India. **(250 words) 15**

भारत में विशेष आर्थिक क्षेत्र (SEZs) वांछित उद्देश्यों को प्राप्त करने में सक्षम क्यों नहीं हो पाए हैं? इस संदर्भ में, भारत में SEZs को पुनर्जीवित करने के लिए कुछ उपायों का सुझाव दीजिए।

SEZs are special zones with differential tariff and trade policies, created to boost industrial production, ~~and~~ employment and attract FDI via tax incentives and favourable environment (SEZ Act 2005).

Reasons for non performance :- Out of 572 SEZs approved, less than half have been operational due to :-

1) Political reasons

a) Rigid labour laws → investors unwilling due to increased cost

b) Delays → in clearances, land acquisition etc.

c) Policy paralysis and crony capitalism.

d) Burdening regulatory compliances

e) Complex tax procedures + cascading duties

2) Economic :-

a) Infrastructural gaps → Lack of ICT support, Lack of linkages to ports, logistics etc.

b) Low $\frac{\text{Investment}}{\text{GDP}}$ ratio → Lack of investor confidence

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c) Competition from foreign markets especially Vietnam, China etc.

d) Limited economies of scale achieved

e) Concentration only in few regions (Backwash effect)

3) Social :-

a) Land acquisition issues → agricultural land takes, displacement ; incomplete compensation

b) lack of skills, training, poor quality education.

c) Jobless growth → most SEZs focussing on services (skill intensive) and not labour intensive manufacturing.

Measures suggested :-

1) Labour laws → need to be amended to balance social security with flexibility to employer + implementation.

2) Conducive policy environment :- Attract FDI; tax/fiscal concessions ; faster clearances ; single window online portal etc.

3) Infrastructural gap filling :- + building linkages via PPP etc.

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4) Cooperative federalism → focus on balanced and inclusive growth with participation of States and ULBs, PRIs etc.

5) Collaboration and cooperation → to boost competitiveness globally (merge SEZs, CEZs, NIMZs under one regulatory authority).

6) Focus on Labour intensive activities and services

The recent suggestions by Baba Kalyani Committee to make SEZs into 3Es → Economic and employment enclaves need to be followed.

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19. Why has the contribution of manufacturing sector, as a percentage of the GDP, remained stagnant in the recent years? In this context, analyse the achievements of National Manufacturing Policy, 2011 with regards to its intended objectives. **(250 words) 15**

विगत वर्षों में GDP के प्रतिशत के रूप में विनिर्माण क्षेत्रक का योगदान स्थिर क्यों रहा है? इस संदर्भ में, अपने लक्षित उद्देश्यों के संबंध में राष्ट्रीय विनिर्माण नीति, 2011 की उपलब्धियों का विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Manufacturing sector has remained the missing link in India's growth transition with GDP share of ~22% and employment share of 34%.

Reasons:-

1.) Economic :-

a) Missing middle → ~~or~~ either very large or very small industries.

b) Resource constraints → funding gaps, lack of investments.

c) Lesser FDI → FDI mainly in service sector

d) Poor infrastructural and logistical support

2) Political :-

a) Labour laws → multiplicity of various laws like Min. wages Act etc. + Rigidity

b) Distorted tax and fiscal incentives → doesn't promote upward mobility & vertical expansion.

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c) Earlier policy of command economy and excessive protectionism → less efficency and competence

3) International factors:-

a) Increasing demand for services and reduction in manufacturing demand.

b) Oil price shocks etc.

c) Cut throat competition (especially post 1991) in Labour intensive manufacturing with Vietnam, China etc.

d) Increasing protectionism in developed nations.

4) Social →

a) Lack of skills

b) Low public investment in HRD and its quality

c) Lack of entrepreneurship

d) Disguised unemployment in agriculture

e) Increasing labour unrest (trade unionism) putting off investors.

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National Manufacturing Policy 2011

Objective:-

1) To increase share of manufacturing in GDP and employment
2) To increase the growth rate of manufacturing
3) To make India a global manufacturing hub (via SEZs etc.)
4) Focus on Labour-intensive manufacturing (textiles etc.)
5) Skill and capacity development
6) Enabling environment and conducive policies to increase FDI, investor confidence etc.
7) Employment generation and social security.

Achievements	Failures
1) Share of manufacturing has increase since 2011 (~20%)	1) Share still lower as compared to China etc.
2) Employment creation	2) SEZs not quite helpful (land lying vacant etc.)
3) Consumer goods and capital goods growing at stable pace despite global turbulence	3) Informalisation of labour
4) Enhanced productivity.	4) Labour laws still rigid + improper implementation
	5) Service sector = Growth driver

Despite its achievements, a lot more needs to be done. Recent steps like Make in India, Start up India etc. will give a boost to this sector to achieve target of 25% of GDP by 2022.

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20. One of the goals that a developing economy aspires for is to bring down the Incremental Capital-Output Ratio (ICOR). In this context, what are the constraints that underlie the efficient conversion of savings rate to investments in the Indian economy? Also suggest some measures to improve this efficiency. **(250 words) 15**

एक विकासशील अर्थव्यवस्था जिन लक्ष्यों की आकांक्षा रखती है उनमें से एक वृद्धिशील पूंजी-उत्पादन अनुपात (इंक्रीमेंटल कैपिटल-आउटपुट रेश्यो: ICOR) में कमी लाना है। इस संदर्भ में, भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था में बचत दर के निवेश में कुशल रूपांतरण के समक्ष आने वाली बाधाएँ क्या हैं? साथ ही, इसकी कुशलता में सुधार हेतु कुछ उपायों का भी सुझाव दीजिए।

ICOR is defined as ratio of the change in capital stock to the change in output of the country ($\frac{\Delta k}{\Delta Y}$). A lower value of it indicates:-

1) Increase in productivity and efficency
2) Increase in output for a given value of capital stock.

Developing economy suffers from lack of productivity, infrastructural inefficiencies, inflation etc. and hence it's important to bring ICOR down.

Constraints:-

1) Economic

1) Resource gap :- lack of capital etc.
2) funding gap → especially in larger projects due to low Investment-output ratio (~20% in India)
3) Banking issues → NPAs etc.
4) lack of well developed corporate bond market

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5) Efficiency issues → firms operating at lower output capacity (~70% in India).

2) Political and Administrative :-

a) Procedural issues and delays in implementation
b) lax regulatory supervision on performance of PSUs etc.
c) lack of pvt. investment due to policy paralysis
d) Distorted tax / incentives structures
e) Tariff policies unfavorable.
f) Large inflation due to deficit financing

3) International :-

a) High cost of technology and capital goods (imports)
b) Poor FDI (due to turbulence in world affairs, trade wars etc.)

4) Socio-cultural :-

a) Lack of Household financial investment (instead more in gold etc)
b) financial illeteracy

Measures :-

1) Political :-

a) Tax incentives on capital goods (reduce import duties) & increase savings & profits.
b) SEZ policy overhaul (as per Baba Kalyani committee)
c) Public investment in infrastructure, logistics etc.
d) Capacity building + increase R&D

2) Economic :-

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a) Well functioning financial market with gradual capital account convertibility (as per Tarapore Committee)

b) Increasing productivity of inputs via technology etc.

c) Attractive more FDI to boost Investment + balance BoP

d) Controlling inflation.

Socio-cultural

1) Financial inclusion & literacy (expand Jan Dhan further + small savings)

2) Behavioural change towards productive savings (will help to reduce imports of gold ⇒ CAD will decrease)

These measures + focus on macroeconomic stability and boosting exports will enhance the conversion of savings to investment to boost growth.

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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1326)

Name of Candidate	AISHWARYA SHEORAN		
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENG	Registration Number	506755
Center		Date	5/4/19

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
2	10	
3	10	
4	10	
5	10	
6	10	
7	10	
8	10	
9	10	
10	10	
11	15	
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16	15	
17	15	
18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न–पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH & HINDI**
   इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
   सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
   प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
   प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न–सह–उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
   प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

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Plot No. 857, 1st Floor, Banda Bahadur Marg (Opp Punjab & Sindh Bank), Dr. Mukherjee Nagar Delhi- 110009

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EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

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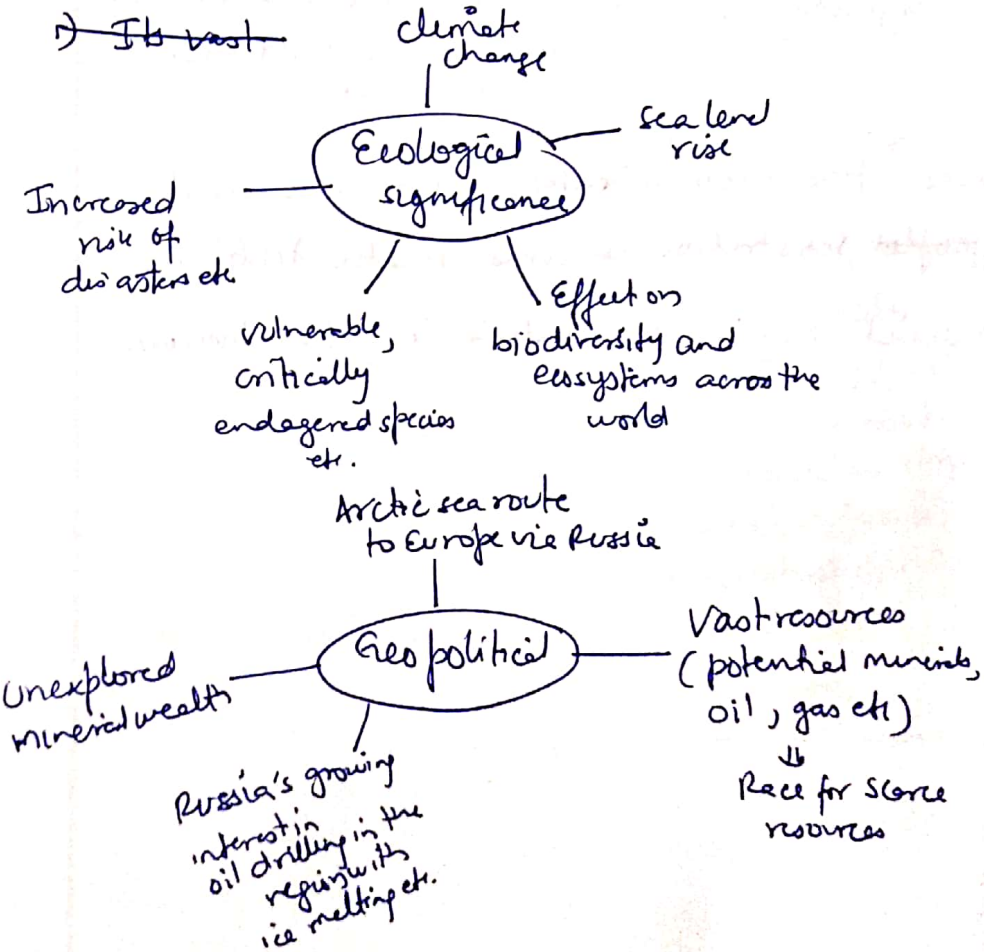
1. Given the growing ecological and geopolitical significance, Arctic region offers immense opportunities for serving India's long-term interests. Discuss. **(150 words) 10**

बढ़ते पारिस्थितिक और भू-राजनीतिक महत्व के आलोक में, आर्कटिक क्षेत्र भारत के दीर्घकालिक हितों की पूर्ति हेतु व्यापक अवसर प्रस्तुत करता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Arctic region, with its fast melting ice (100% faster), is fast emerging as a crucial geopolitical and geostrategic concern ~~for~~ in the international arena due to:-

~~1) Its vast~~



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Hence, as an observer of Arctic council, India stands as a stakeholder in the region due for its interests in:-

1) Trade & commerce → free navigation
2) Resources → equitable share of global commons
3) Rule based order & multilateral approach
4) Signatory to COP21 ⇒ limit sea level rise & melting as India one of the most vulnerable.

Hence the environmental, economic and ~~geopol~~ geostrategic concerns make Arctic as crucial region for India's long term interests.

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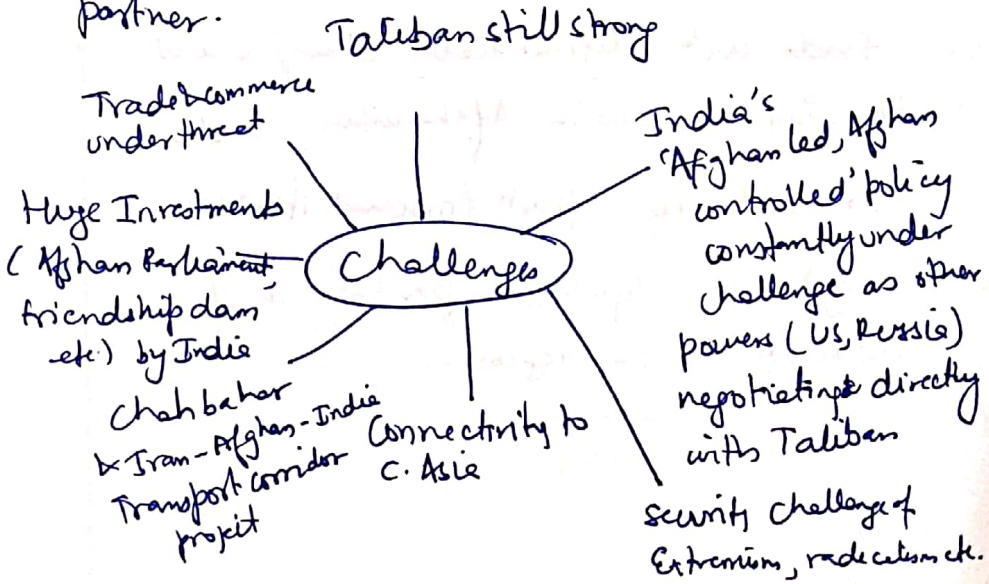
2. Discuss the challenges that India may face in the eventuality of withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan. What options does India have to safeguard its interests in the context of the changing situation? **(150 words) 10**

अफगानिस्तान से अमेरिकी सैनिकों की वापसी की स्थिति में भारत के समक्ष आ सकने वाली चुनौतियों पर चर्चा कीजिए। परिवर्तित होती परिस्थितियों के संदर्भ में भारत के पास अपने हितों की रक्षा करने के लिए कौन-से विकल्प हैं?

With USA ~~withdrawing~~ negotiating with Taliban and talks of its phased withdrawal, India needs to proactively engage with all stakeholders to secure its national and critical interests in Afghanistan, which is our gateway to C. Asia along with being a strategic partner.



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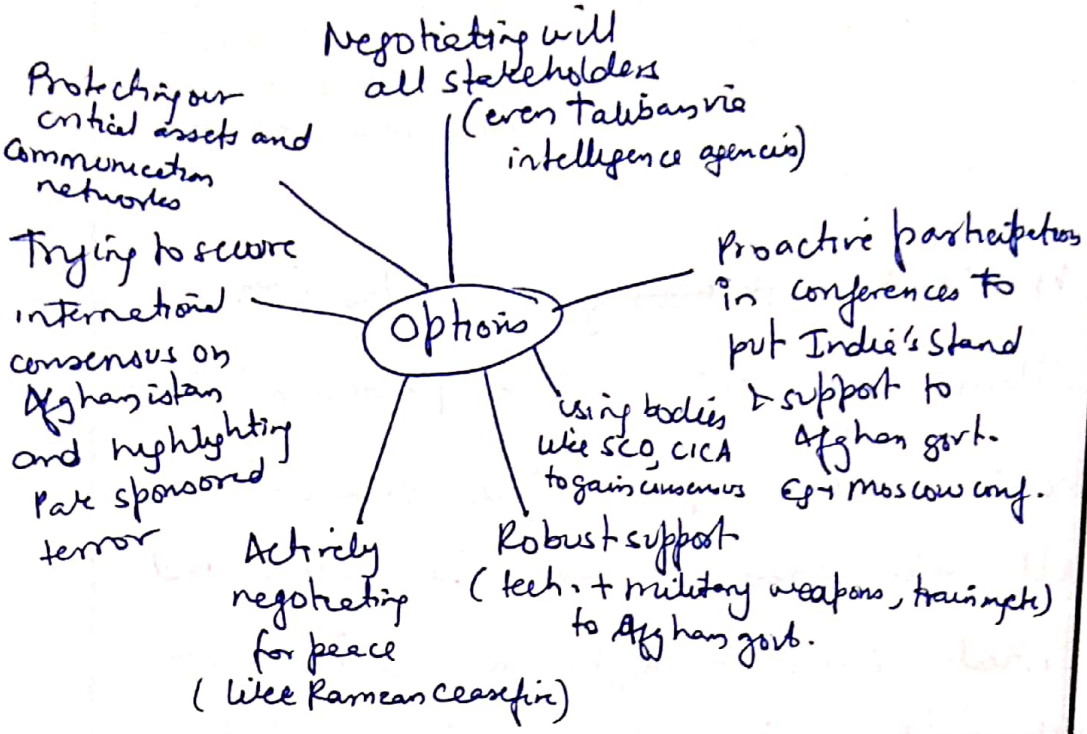

Thus ~~India~~, with its dynamically changing and challenging stakes in Afghanistan, India needs to actively push forward its voice as a major developmental partner and stakeholder in the region.

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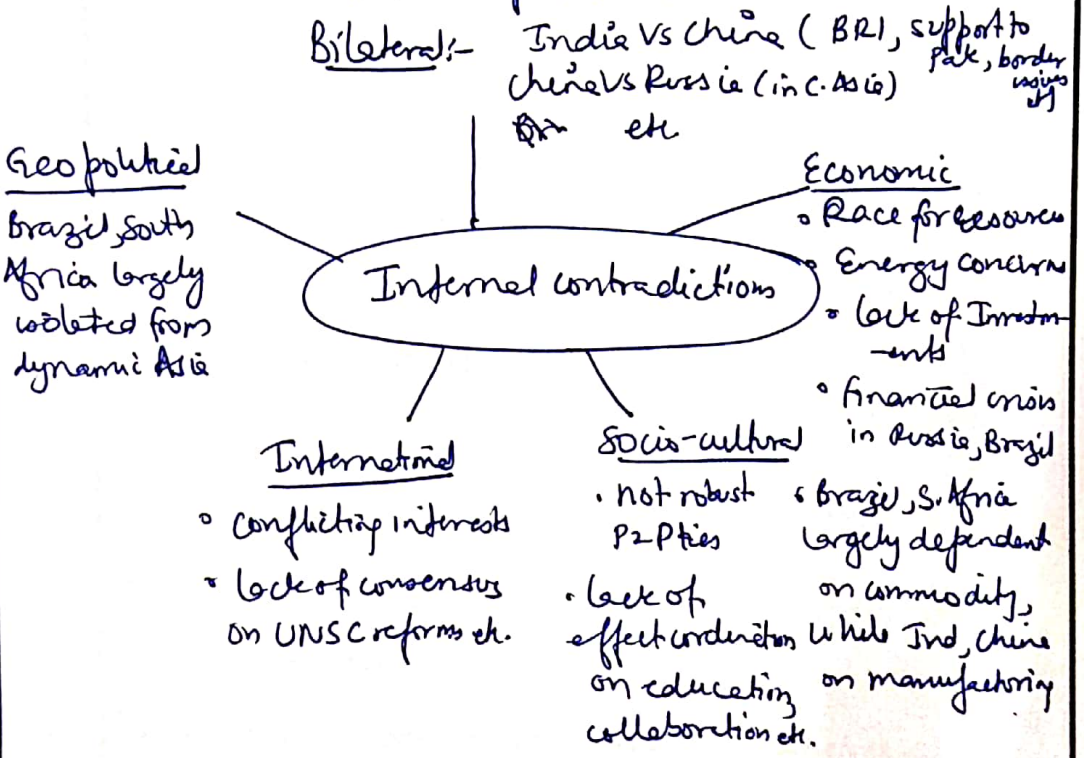
3. The BRICS as a grouping seems to have internal contradictions, which makes it difficult for it to emerge as an effective forum in a dynamic multi-polar international order. Critically discuss. **(150 words) 10**

एक समूह के रूप में ब्रिक्स (BRICS) में आंतरिक विरोधाभास विद्यमान प्रतीत होते हैं, जो गतिशील बहु-ध्रुवीय अंतर्राष्ट्रीय व्यवस्था में इसके एक प्रभावी मंच के रूप में उभरने को कठिन बनाता है। समालोचनात्मक चर्चा कीजिए।

BRICS (1st summit in 2009) reflects the emerging economies of 21st century with >50% of world's population and >30% of world's GDP (hence immense potential).



However, there are areas of synergy upcoming like:-

1) BRICS bank
2) BRICS media network
3) collaboration in trade, infra, renewable energy, disaster management etc.

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4) Support to JCPOA during recent summit.
5) Talks on Vladivostok - Chennai ~~Pipeline~~ pipeline etc.

These synergies need to be revamped to enhance cooperation, integration and connectivity between BRICS to ~~reach~~ realise its full potential.

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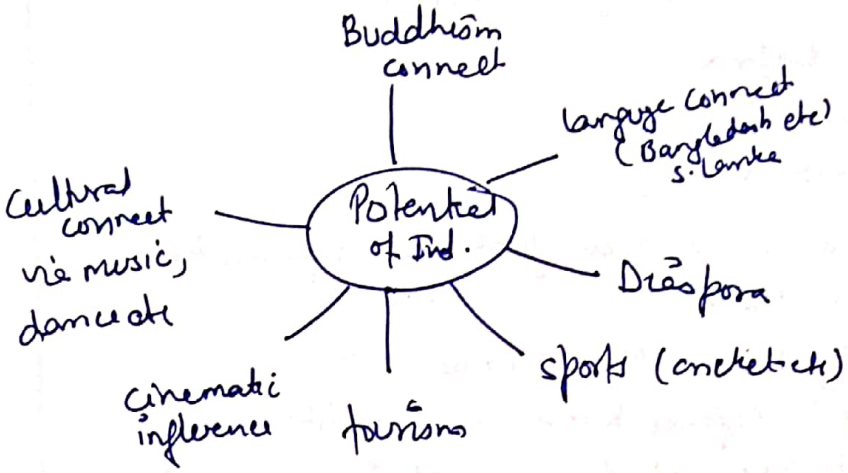
4. Despite India having immense soft power potential, it alone will not be sufficient to achieve India's foreign policy objectives. Examine.

(150 words) 10

भारत के पास अत्यधिक मृदु शक्ति (सॉफ्ट पॉवर) क्षमता होने के बावजूद, केवल यह भारत की विदेश नीति के उद्देश्यों की प्राप्ति हेतु पर्याप्त नहीं होगी। परीक्षण कीजिए।

Soft power relies on dominance in cultural, religious, spiritual etc. spheres of ~~dom~~ diplomacy and international relations to exuberate dominance



However India's foreign policy objectives will-

1) Maintaining & securing territorial integrity and national interest
2) Peace and non-interference – Panchsheel
3) NAM and independent decision making – balancing between US & Russia etc., especially in post cold war era.
4) Maritime security & dominance in IOR
5) Countering China rise in our backyard

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6) Push to 'Act East' policy → connect to S.E. Asia
7) Connect with Central Asia, Africa etc.
8) Energy & resource security
9) Securing sea lanes of communication, anti piracy, etc.
10) Trade, commerce, connectivity
11) Multilateralism + reforms in UNSC + rule based order
12) Free & open Indo pacific → SAGAR
14) Engaging diaspora
15) Neighbourhood 1st.
16) Disarmament (globally)

The objectives need a comprehensive + proactive approach of :-

a) Outreaching to S.E. Asian nations
b) Cooperating in defence & maritime security
c) Capacity building of defence (China, Pak etc. hostility)
d) Resurrection of Quad → to counter China rise (BRI etc)
e) min. credible deterrance.

Hence both hard + soft power need to be carefully balanced to ensure our national interests.

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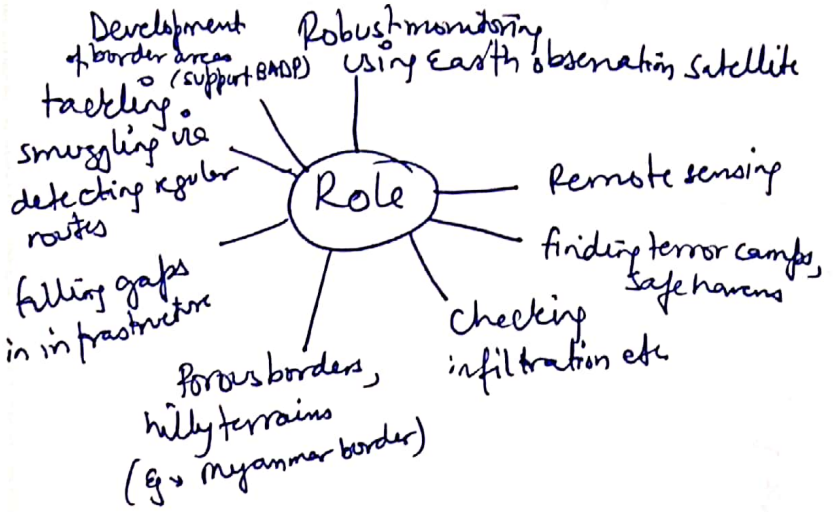
5. Highlighting the role of space technology in border management, enumerate the steps taken so far in this regard. **(150 words) 10**

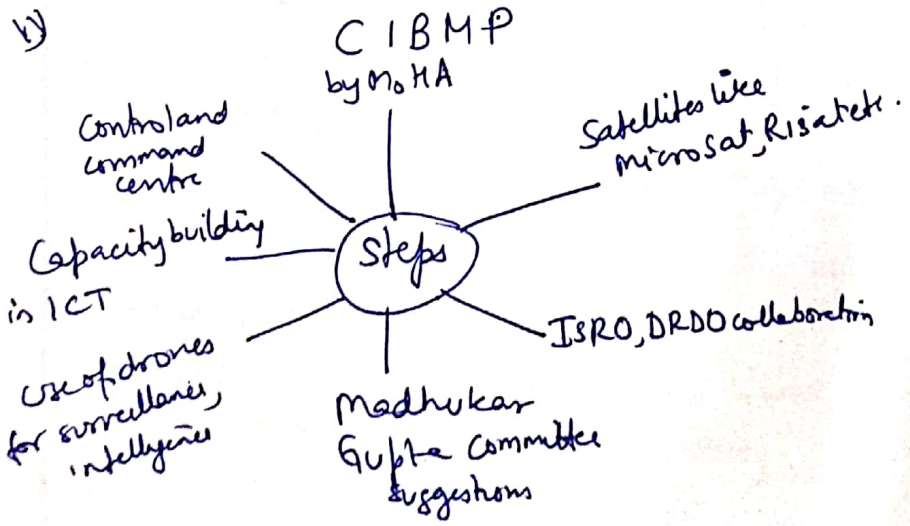
सीमा प्रबंधन में अंतरिक्ष प्रौद्योगिकी की भूमिका पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, इस संबंध में अब तक उठाए गए कदमों को सूचीबद्ध कीजिए।

Space technology plays a pivotal role in border management for building a comprehensive and robust system as:-



Steps taken

i)



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These steps will ensure a robust and Comprehensive border management system to check terrorism, infiltration, smuggling etc. and for development of lagging areas.

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6. Despite allegations of human rights violations under the AFSPA, it is a functional requirement for the army in disturbed areas. Critically discuss. **(150 words) 10**

AFSPA के अंतर्गत मानवाधिकारों के उल्लंघन के आरोपों के बावजूद, यह अशांत क्षेत्रों में सेना के लिए एक कार्यात्मक आवश्यकता है। समालोचनात्मक चर्चा कीजिए।

AFSPA not only grants special powers to armed forces in disturbed areas, but also provides protection to the personnels in taking official actions in these 'disturbed' areas.

features:-

1) Invoked in 'disturbed' areas of NER, J&K etc.
2) Assembly of more than 5 people not allowed
3) Personnel can even fire post warning, if need be
4) Protection against prosecution / inquiry (unless centre Govt. approves).

Recently, there has been growing critisism by NHRC, civil society activists and international bodies about the alleged HR violations (fake encounters, innocent killed, cases of rapes etc.) + growing insurgency in NER.

However, it remains a functional requirement due to:-

1) Political concerns
- separatist / secessionist forces operating in NER, J&K etc.
- Law & order threats to internal security

2) Economic:- affects development of a region due to insurgency

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3) Social → ethnic alienation; people living in fear; lack of education etc.

4) International → non-state terror groups, Pakistan etc. facilitating insurgency + states like Bangladesh, Myanmar used as safe havens.

Recently AFSPA has been revoked from certain areas of Arunachal, though it still remains in major parts of Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya etc.

2nd ARC and several other committees have recommended to repeal it and instead built capacity of state police forces + strengthen provisions of UAPA 1967 to tactfully handle the situation via negotiations, development and adequate use of force to pacify the sentiments and respect human rights.

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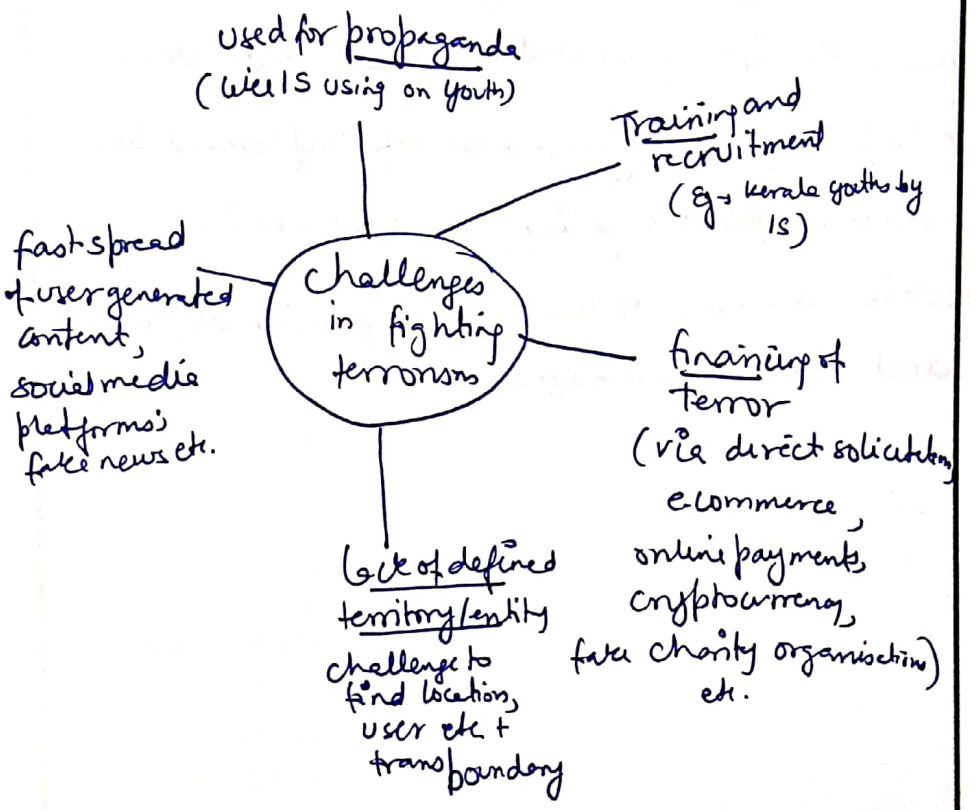
7. The use of Internet creates both challenges and opportunities in the fight against terrorism. Discuss. **(150 words) 10**

आतंकवाद के विरूद्ध लड़ाई में इंटरनेट का उपयोग चुनौतियां और अवसर दोनों सृजित करता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

With the increasing role of ICT in our lives and internet boom (no. of people using it to double by 2021), it has increasingly become a boon as well as a bane for policy makers.



However, it also provides opportunities:-

1) Cordinated action via ICT
2) With NeGP etc. → corruption has declined
3) Robust cyber security network to track quickly (CERT-In etc)

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4) Using remote ~~sensor~~ sensing & mapping to locate terror camps (recent surgical strike on JeM).

5) finding source of funds and action against illicit trafficking → ~~easie~~ easier via better technological monitoring.

6) Sec 69 of ITact → allows searching of any computer for security concerns by given authorities

7) Collaborations with FB, Google etc. → to fight it.

Hence Internet, like any other technology, comes with its pros and cons. It depends on the capacity + effectiveness of implementation + robust legislative policy to comprehensively tackle menace of terrorism using internet, AI, IoT and other technologies.

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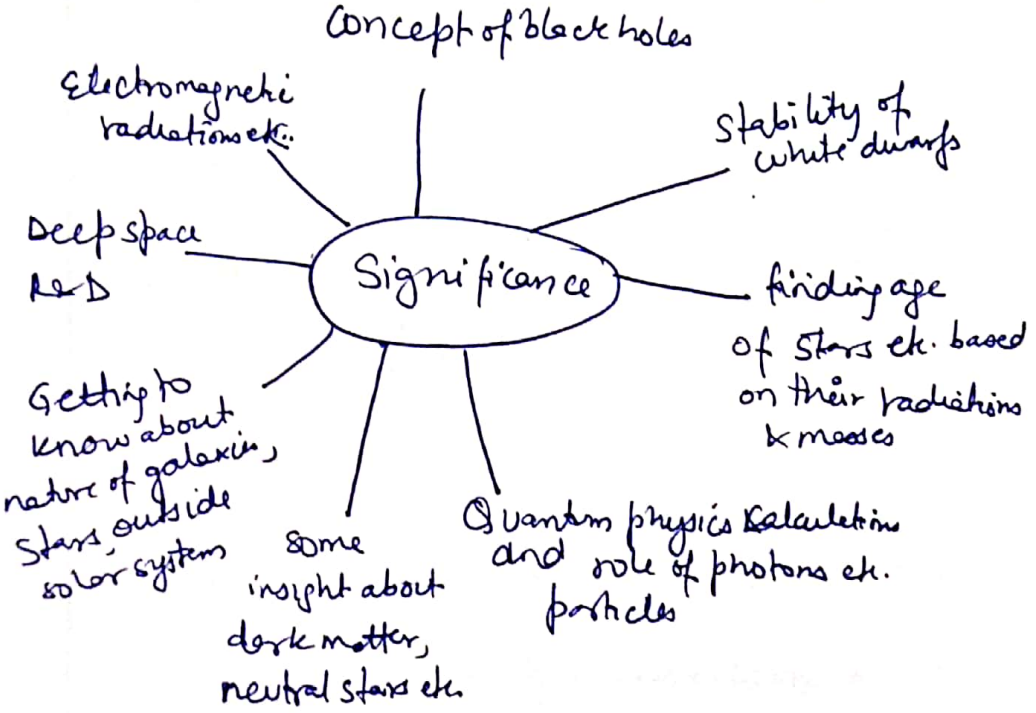
8. Explain the concept of Chandrasekhar Limit and highlight its significance in the field of astronomy. **(150 words) 10**

चंद्रशेखर सीमा की अवधारणा की व्याख्या कीजिए और खगोल विज्ञान के क्षेत्र में इसके महत्व पर प्रकाश डालिए।

A white dwarf star is one which has exhausted all its light.

As per chandrasekhar limit, such a star can be stable only till its mass is 1.44 times that of sun, beyond which it turns into a black hole.



Thus it is a crucial concept in the field of astronomy determining not only the basis on stability of white dwarf stars (sun = yellow dwarf), but also

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providing insights about the nature of other particles, black holes, radiations beyond ~~out~~ the conventional understanding at that time.

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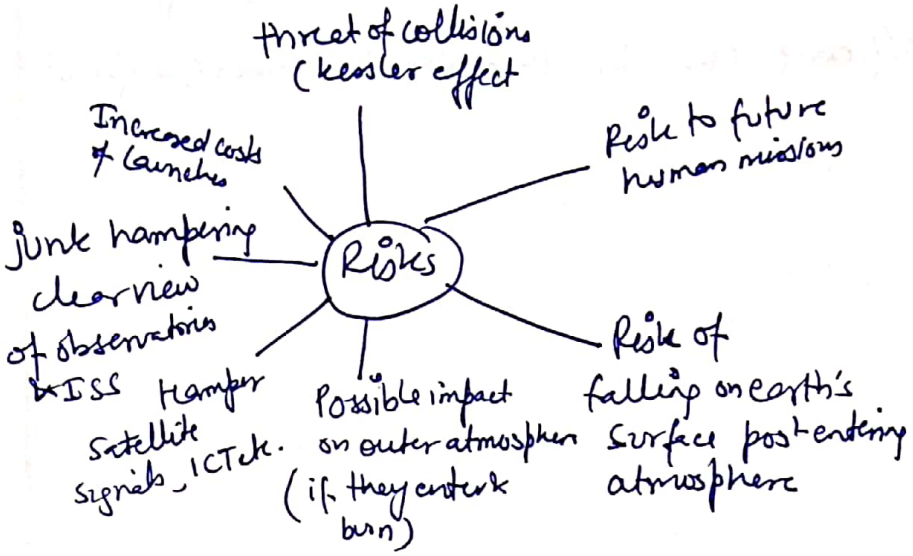
9. Examining the risk posed by space debris, suggest some measures which can be taken for its mitigation and removal. **(150 words) 10**

अंतरिक्ष में मलबे द्वारा उत्पन्न जोखिम का परीक्षण करते हुए, इनके शमन एवं हटाने हेतु कुछ उपायों का सुझाव दीजिए।

Space debris :- used satellite parts, fragments & broken pieces etc. floating in space, orbiting the earth.



Measures:-

1) Reusing rocket → like ISRO working on RLV-TD

2) Missions to remove it → Eg → Remove Debris by SSTL

3) Deorbiting it → using net capture, harpoon etc.

4) Collaborative efforts → internationally to limit it

5) Contact-less methods → using laser (photons) to force it away

6) Constant monitoring & evaluation → of its potential impacts & trends.

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7) Treaty → for its regulation ; rule based order

8) Preventing space weaponisation → which can further aggravate it.
(UN outer space treaty 1967)

These methods are needed to ensure a clean, productive and dynamic space for cost effective and efficient R&D in the global common (i.e space).

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anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

10. Discuss the challenges confronting higher self-reliance and indigenisation of defence industry in India. What steps can be taken to accelerate its pace? **(150 words) 10**

भारत में रक्षा उद्योग के समक्ष उच्च आत्म-निर्भरता और स्वदेशीकरण से संबद्ध चुनौतियों की विवेचना कीजिए। इसकी गति को तीव्र करने हेतु क्या कदम उठाए जा सकते हैं?

Defence industry is fast-emerging in India with push to 'making in India', 'Strategic partnership' model of DPC and FDI relaxation (49% via automatic, 100% by approval).

Self reliance and indigenisation are crucial for our national security and political, economic, strategic and Asian concerns (considering India's tense neighbourhood and geopolitical positions.).

Challenges

Political- procedural delays; slow procurement processes; time delays in decision making; mistrust in pvt. sector; security concerns

Technical
- lag in tech.
- slow adoption of AI, machine learning etc.

Social
- lack of adequate R&D
- lack of crucial skills
- lack of entrepreneurship
- digital illiteracy

Economic
- not well developed corporate bond market
- lack of funds
- lack of skills
- competition
- cost and capital requirements
- FDI unwilling

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Recent initiatives have led to several joint productions like Barak-8, Brahmos etc.

Steps needed

Politico-Admin → single window clearances
- Easy land acquisition
- tax etc. incentives
- simplified procedures

Economic
- fiscal support
- corporate bond market
- NIIF use for strategic projects
- More capital budget for defence & allied industries
- DRDO's collaboration ▷ facilitation of academia-industry
- FDI → enhance attractiveness via concessions etc.

Skill - skill, entrepreneurship development; R&D

International :- collaborations for joint productions + jt. R&D

These steps will ensure a robust, self reliant and indigenised defence industry to tackle any traditional and non traditional threats in future.

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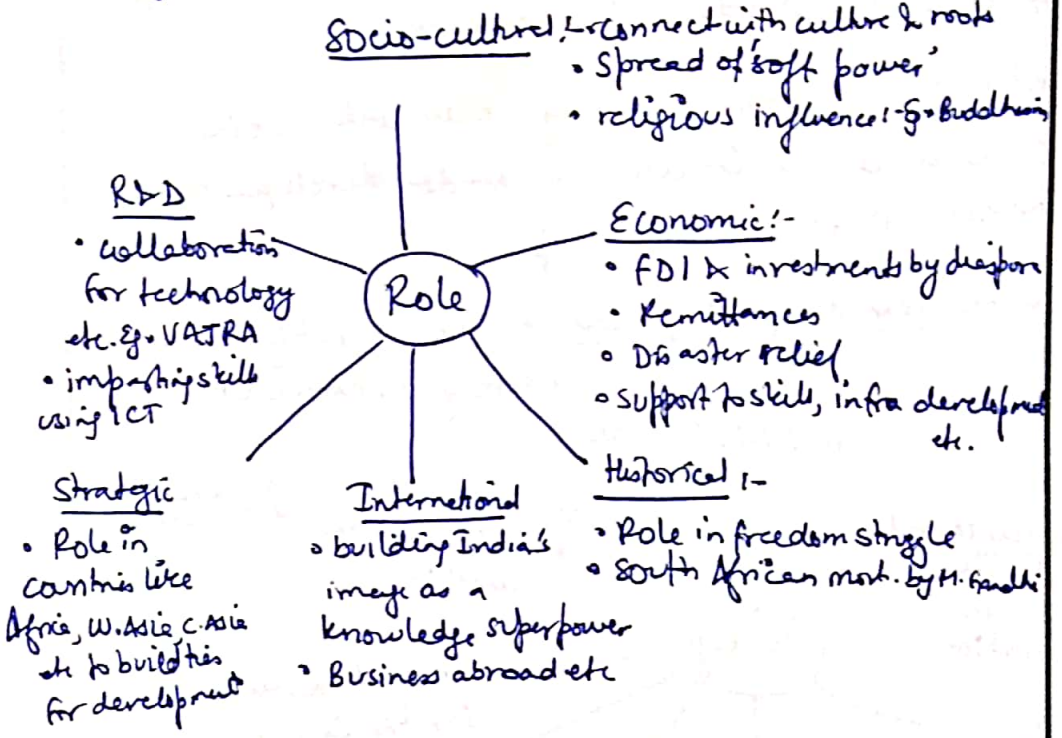
11. Comment on the role played by the diaspora in India's development process. Also, discuss the challenges in terms of engaging the Indian diaspora and suggest ways to translate these partnerships into benefits. **(250 words) 15**

भारत की विकास प्रक्रिया में प्रवासी समुदाय (डायस्पोरा) द्वारा निभाई गई भूमिका पर टिप्पणी कीजिए। साथ ही, भारतीय प्रवासी समुदाय को आकर्षित करने में आने वाली चुनौतियों पर चर्चा कीजिए तथा इन साझेदारियों को लाभों में बदलने हेतु तरीके सुझाइए।

Diaspora (PIOs settled outside India) play a crucial role both in domestic as well as international development of a nation and its image outside.



Challenges:-

1) Political:- laxity and unwillingness to engage earlier; complicated procedures; overlapping rules etc. confusing them

2) Socio-cultural:- growing disconnect to roots; changing norms etc

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3) Economic :- fiscal issues to organise events for their active participation ; most of diaspora (especially professionals) unwilling ; lack of enough opportunities to engage trained

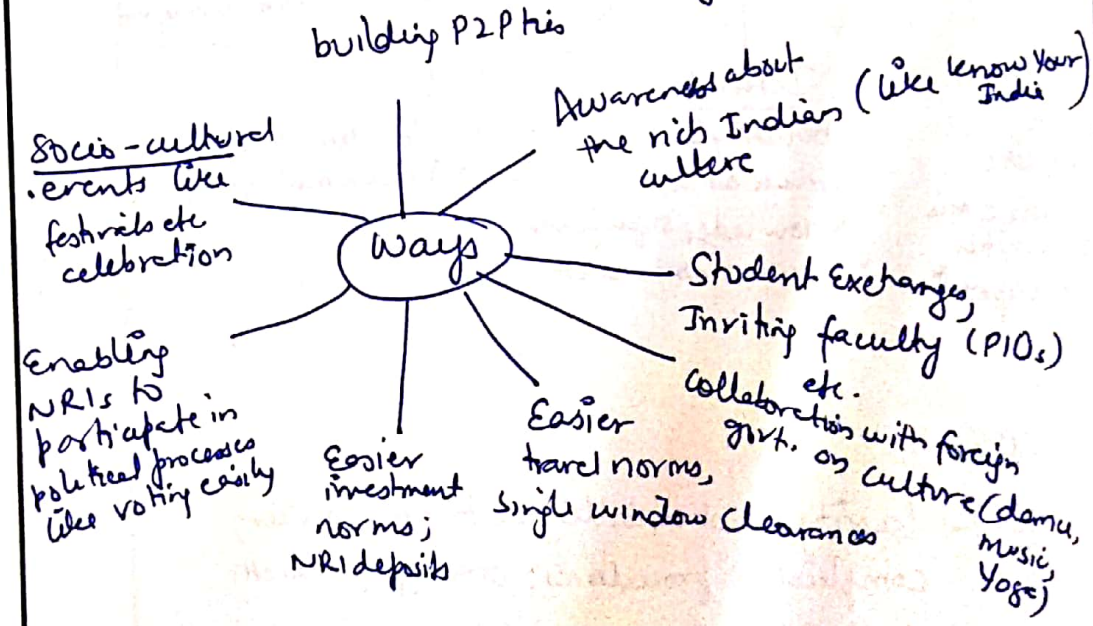
4) Brain drain :- of talented youth due to lack of opportunities in India ; disconnect with Indian traditions

5) Technical :- connectivity etc. issues in various distributed nations

6) International → policies of their resident nations affect + crisis of law & order (eg → Yemen etc).

7) Nature of diaspora → largely blue collar workers in W. Asia, white collar in ~~W. de~~ developed nations, hence heterogenous group.

8) Lack of clear diaspora policy → for integrating them into a strong network (P2P ties)



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The engagement of diaspora will not only help them connect with their Indian roots but will also instil pride and national spirit in them to contribute in India's development.

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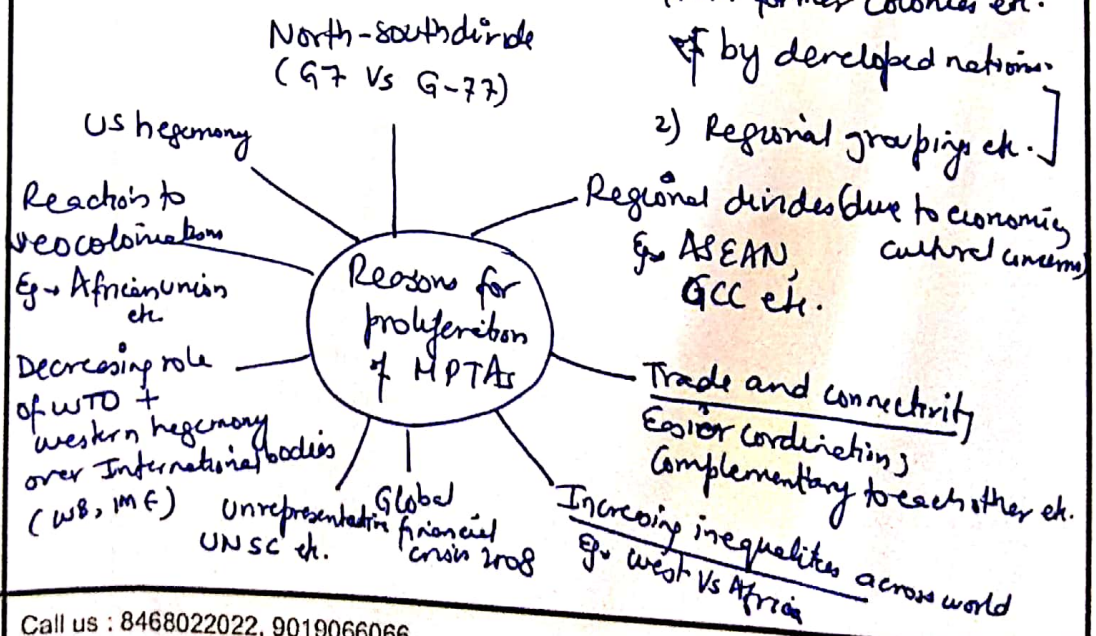
12. Highlight the reasons behind proliferation of multilateral preferential trade agreements. Do they violate WTO's MFN principle? Do you think that such trade groupings present an existential threat to WTO? **(250 words) 15**

बहुपक्षीय अधिमान्य व्यापार समझौतों के तीव्र वृद्धि के पीछे निहित कारणों पर प्रकाश डालिए। क्या वे WTO के MFN सिद्धांत का उल्लंघन करते हैं? क्या आपको ऐसा प्रतीत होता है कि इस प्रकार के व्यापार समूह, WTO के समक्ष अस्तित्वपरक खतरा प्रस्तुत करते हैं?

Multilateral Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs) are a loose form of economic and trade cooperation for lowering tariffs and giving preference to imports of member nations.

As per WTO's MFN principle, if MFN status (i.e. favourable tariffs, custom duties etc. towards a ~~friedly~~ friendly nation) is given to any 1 nation by a WTO member, then it must be extended to all WTO members.

[However there are provisions for → 1) favouring exports from former colonies etc. by developed nations.
2) Regional groupings etc.]



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These regional groupings though help to:-

1) Build regional ties
2) Trade & commerce
3) Connectivity & P2P links
4) mutual cooperation & understanding between nations
5) Economies of scale

However they do pose existential threat to multilateral global bodies like WTO due to:-

1) Growing distrust :- World getting divided into multiple blocs.

2) Multilateralism in threat :- due to US hegemony, west domination, making 3rd world feel alienated

3) Hampers world trade → ongoing trade wars etc. ~~to~~ between US-China

4) Disputes → Dispute settlement mechanism of WTO not proving effective (eg → US Vs India recently)

5) Socio-cultural divide → rising due to regional groupings.

6) Assymmetric burden of climate distress → on developing nations (Recent Paris pact)

7) Doha round unsettled → issues over IPR and agricultural subsidies remaint dumping by China etc.

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Therefore, WTO needs to realign its position to truly reflect the changing world economic order to build a strong multilateral, rule based, non discriminatory and collaborative world order.

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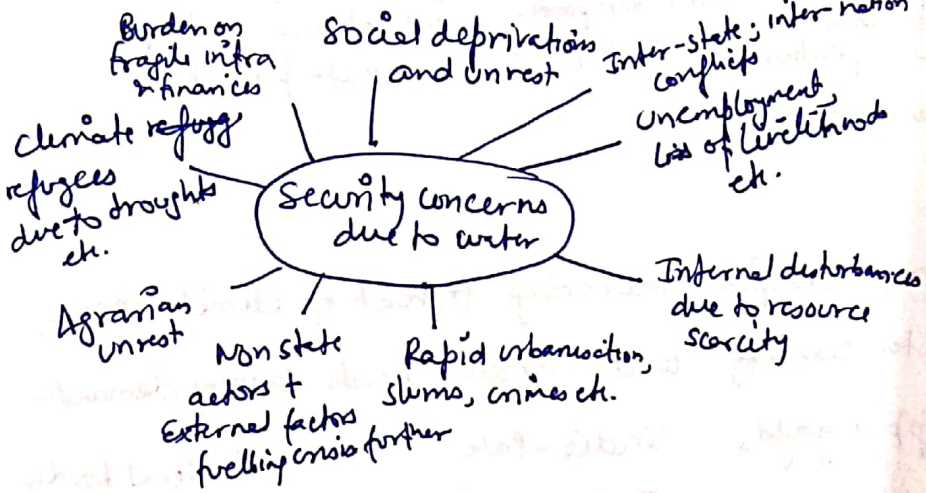
13. India needs to balance its growing water needs and larger security concerns with effective hydro-diplomacy. Highlighting the challenges faced with regard to transboundary rivers, analyze this statement in the context of India's riparian relations with its neighbours. **(250 words) 15**

भारत को अपनी बढ़ती जल आवश्यकताओं और व्यापक सुरक्षा चिंताओं को प्रभावी जल-कूटनीति के माध्यम से संतुलित करने की आवश्यकता है। सीमा पारीय नदियों से संबंधित सामना की जाने वाली चुनौतियों पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, अपने पड़ोसियों के साथ भारत के नदी-जल संबधों के संदर्भ में इस कथन का विश्लेषण कीजिए।

As per NITI Aayog, 21 cities in India will face water scarcity by 2021 leading to about 6% loss in GDP due to the growing water needs and scarcity accentuated by climate change.



Hydro-diplomacy deals with political, strategic, secure, & management of water resources via a comprehensive, collaborative and integrated approach bringing all (nation / international) stakeholders in sharing of scarce resources and building resilience.

It involves :-
a) Negotiations + clearly defining domains
b) Tactful & strategic planning + dispute settlement
c) Collaboration (via JW Gs etc.)
d) Developing Tech. + R&D.

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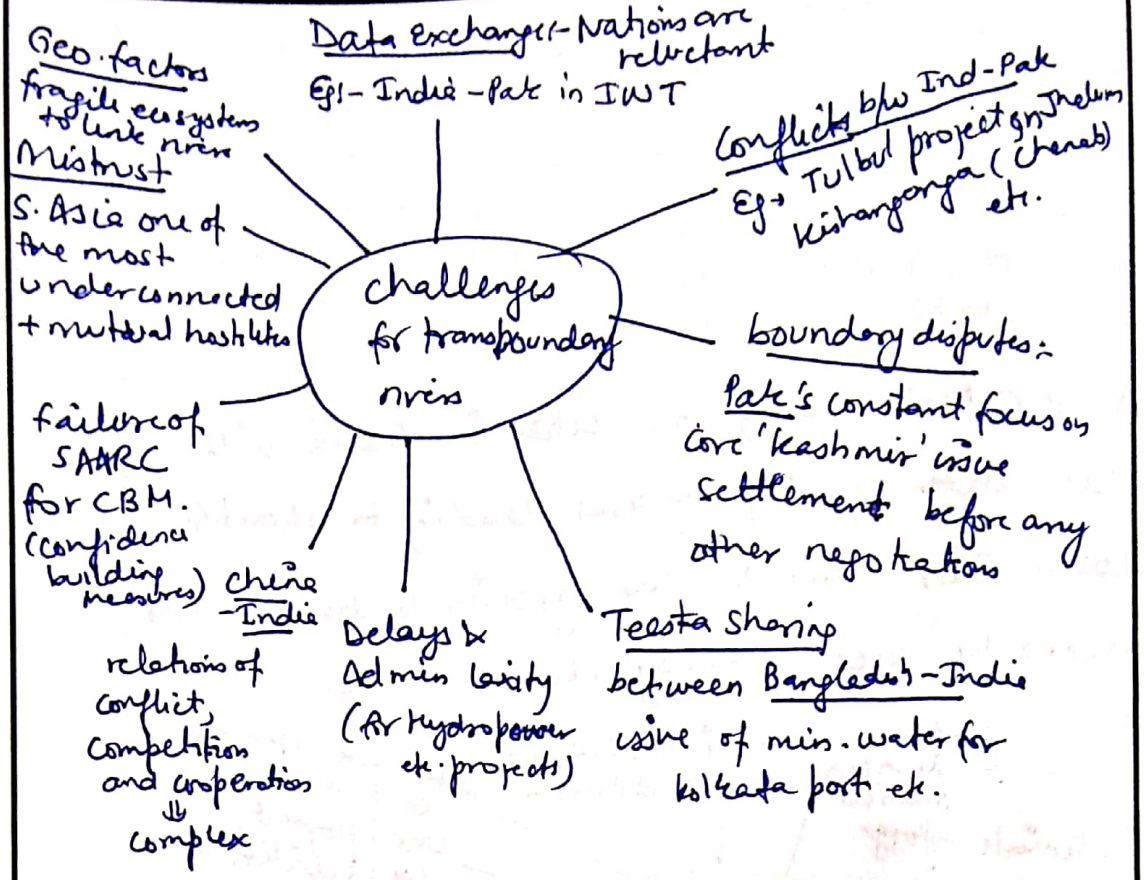

Hence despite increasing threat of climate change, water scarcity and growing needs causing demand-supply gaps, India - Pak, India - China, India - Bangladesh, India - Myanmar etc. bilateral border, political and security issues overshadow the common concerns.

Keeping these geopolitical, geostrategic and bilateral ~~concerns~~ issues aside, there needs to be a collaborative approach via:-

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1) Data sharing (Eg → recent MoU between India & China)

2) Joint working groups (bilateral, BIMSTEC, SAARC etc)

3) R&D collaboration

4) Possibility of river linking (Eg → Brahmaputra & Ganga via collaborat" of Bangladesh, Ind, China)

5) ICT (Eg → Recent South Asia satellite by India)

to tackle the growing water concerns multilaterally and sharing common interests.

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14. Commenting on the importance of Central Asia for India, highlight the progress made in the relationship in recent past along with the issues that still remain to further cement the ties. **(250 words) 15**

भारत के लिए मध्य एशिया के महत्व पर टिप्पणी करते हुए, हाल के दिनों में संबंधों में हुई प्रगति पर प्रकाश डालिए, साथ ही साथ ऐसे मुद्दों का उल्लेख कीजिए जिन पर संबंधों को और अधिक सुदृढ़ करने हेतु ध्यान दिया जाना अभी भी शेष है।

Central Asia Region (CAR) is fast emerging as growing politically, geostrategically and economically important power ~~with~~ providing linkages with Europe and acting as a bridge between the East and west.

Importance of CAR for Ind.

Economic →
- Energy Security
  - Hydro power
  - Mineral wealth (uranium etc.)
  - Market Access + Investment opportunity
  - oil and gas reserves

Geostrategic —
- Countering influence of China (BRI etc.)
- vast resource potential
- connectivity, trade
- Infra, developmental projects to increase connect
- ~~Alt~~ Alternate route to Afghanistan
- India's extended neighbourhood.
- Growing ~~prese~~ importance for EU, USA as well due to strategic location
- South-south connect

Geopolitical →
- India's increasing footsteps in Eurasia
- Alternative market to US, Europe (due to trade wars etc)
- Collaborations and partnerships
- CICA, SCO etc.
- Countering extremism, terrorism etc.

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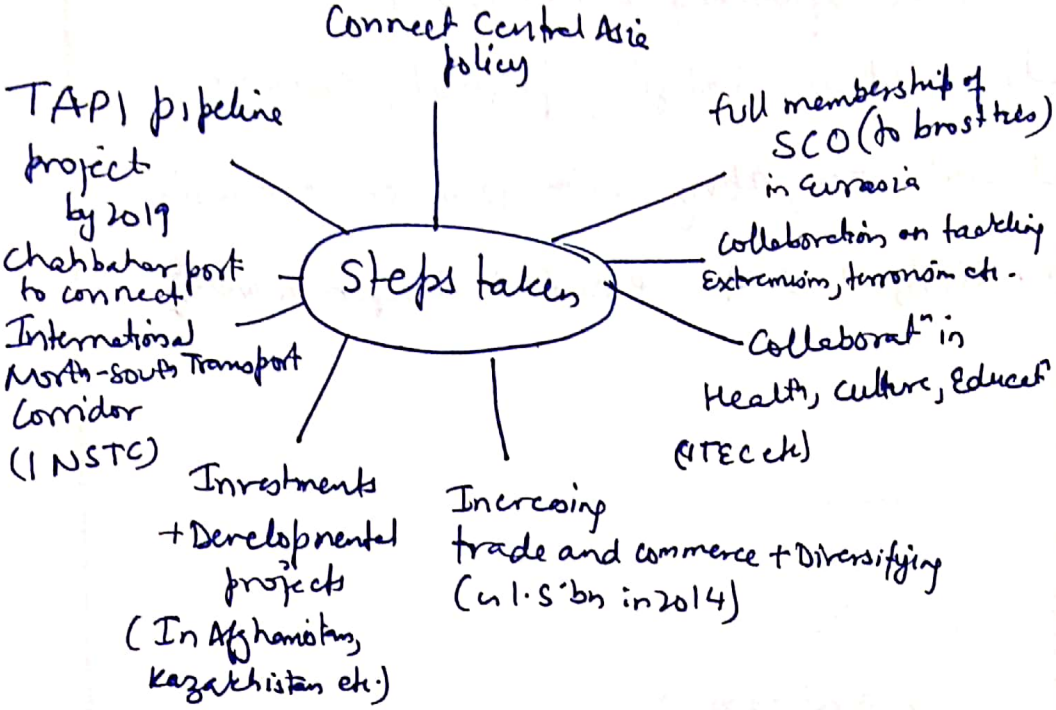
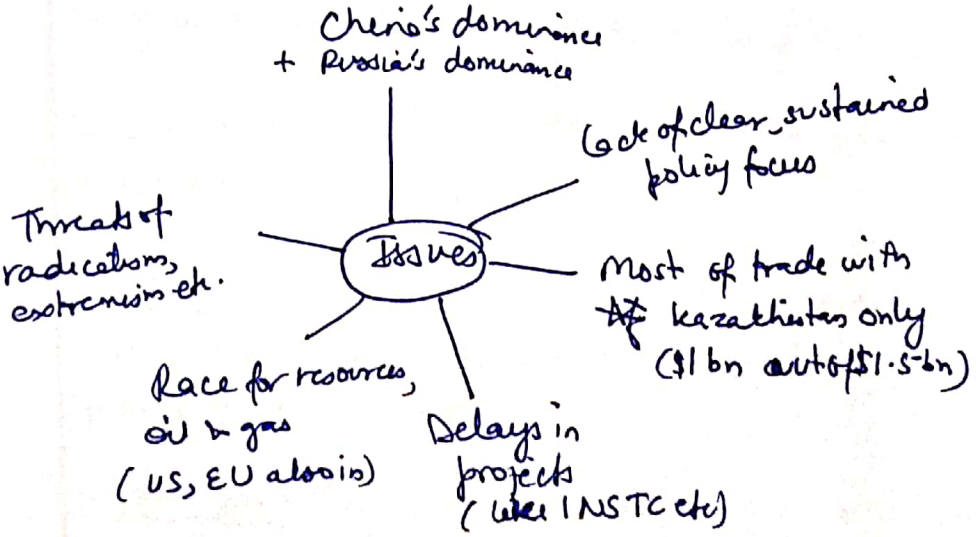
from a passive and reluctant diplomatic policy, there has now been a new awakening to 'connect with CAR' realising its potential for our security, economic and energy policies.





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Despite substantial efforts, the progress has been slow due to various domestic + international factors. Hence a comprehensive approach + proactive diplomacy is needed to boost trade, defence, strategic, political, economic, cultural ties, along with focus on enhancing connectivity and P-2-P ties (via diaspora as well).

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15. Discuss the significance of India's island territories in its quest to become a net security provider in the Indian Ocean region. (250 words) 15

हिंद महासागर क्षेत्र में वास्तविक सुरक्षा प्रदाता बनने की भारत की आकांक्षा के आलोक में, इसके द्वीपीय प्रदेशों के महत्व की चर्चा कीजिए।

With a vast coastline of ~7500 km in the Indian Ocean region (IOR), India is not only a part of a dynamic geopolitical, geostrategic region, but is also a crucial stakeholder and a dominant power in IOR.

Both Lakshadweep and A&N islands are crucial as:-

1) Territorial :- expanding our territorial waters and EEZ

2) Geostrategic:- Crucial position in IOR near strait of Malacca (>50% of world's trade passes) along with South east Asian nations (S.E. Asian)

3) Act East Policy:- A&N are a gateway to S.E. Asian nations like Indonesia etc.

4) Littorals and regional connect → firm base for connectivity with Maldives, Srilanka etc. ⇒ help in our policy of Neighbourhood 1st.

5) Maritime powers:- establish India (largest in S. Asia) as a natural dominant power in IOR with islands being close to Sea lanes of communication (SLOCs).

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6) Security → securing nation interests in IOR and our territorial, economic and strategic assets etc; especially as nos regional powers increasing (US, China etc)

7) Trade and commerce :- IOR is the dynamic core of world's trade and Indo pacific region ∴ islands (Gulf of Aden etc) help in securing safety from piracy attacks etc. (Naval bases).

8) China → growing its influence via ~~sitt~~ string of pearls (Hambantota etc) (to BRI), hence islands ~~give~~ provide to serve as bases for armed forces for potential conflicts and deterrance.

9) ~~Regional and~~ South Asia and Indo pacific → becoming increasingly important with USA's 'pivot to Asia', Indo-pacific renaming and China's growing naval presence; along with disputes in South China sea; hence India increasingly focussing on developing islands with robust security networks for ~~maritime~~ free and open navigation.

Recent active endeavours of India in like SAGAR in IORA, notion of free, open and inclusive maritime navigation, collaborative approach etc. are all aimed to make India

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a net security provider and a dominant power in IOR while ensuring a rule based and multilateral order.

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16. A fine balance between security and developmental measures needs to be attained for tackling the menace of Left Wing Extremism (LWE) in India. Analyse. **(250 words) 15**

भारत में वामपंथी उग्रवाद (LWE) के खतरे से निपटने हेतु सुरक्षा और विकासात्मक उपायों के मध्य एक उत्कृष्ट संतुलन स्थापित करने की आवश्यकता है। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

One the biggest challenges to India's internal security is the menace of LWE in the dreaded 'Red corridor' comprising of ~200 distt in heart of India.

Reasons for their growth

Social:- deprivation, illiteracy, ethnic isolation (of tribals), lack of basic amenities, poverty etc.

Economic displacement, inequalities, low incomes and opportunities, alien companies taking away land rights etc.

Political:- apathy, unclear policies, laxity of admin, lack of centre-state coordination, Poor capacity of state forces etc.

The new national policy to tackle LWE has emphasised on 4 pillars:-

1) Strengthening security
2) Respecting their rights and entitlements
3) Development (social + economic)
4) Perception management

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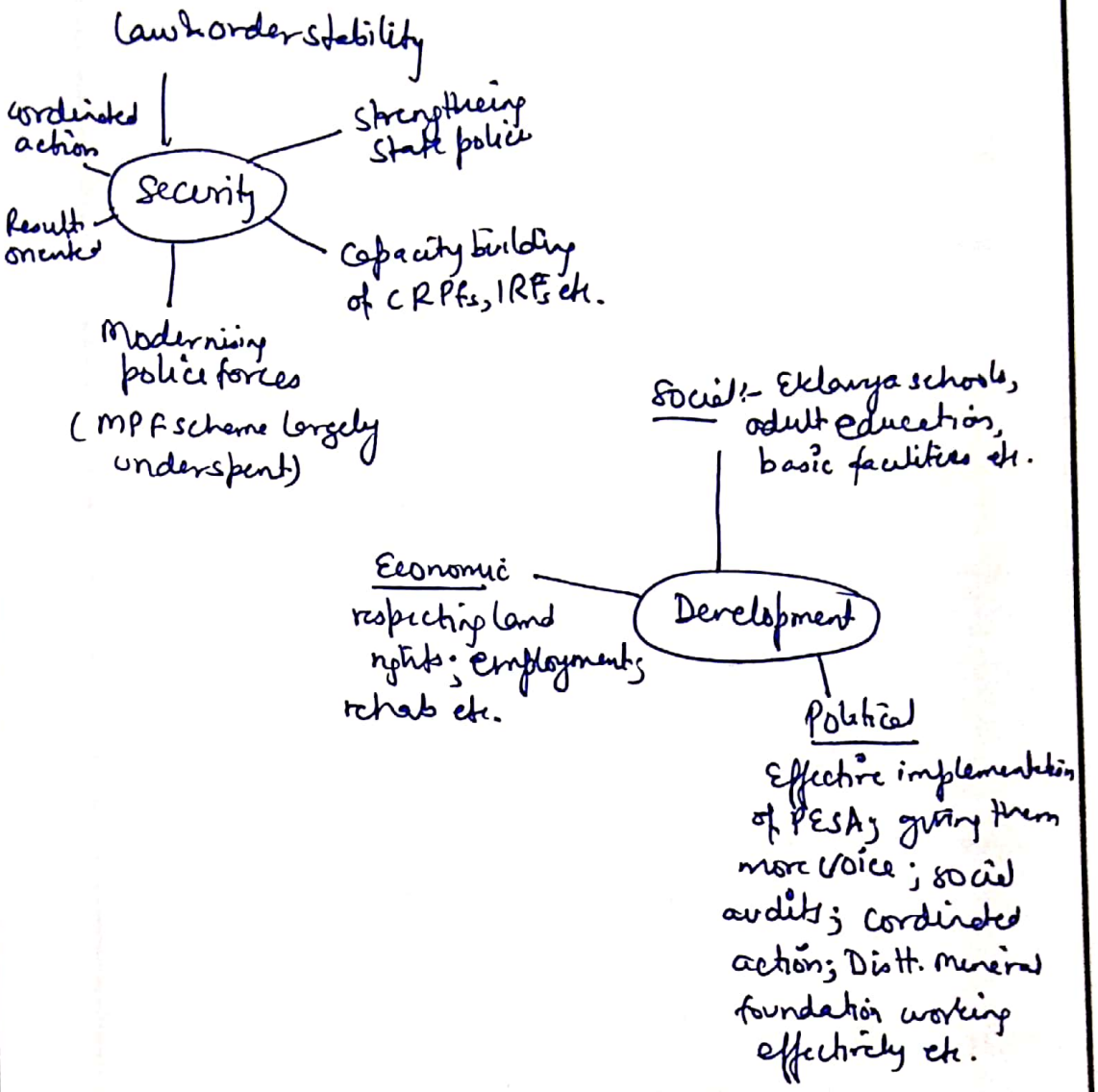
There needs to be a fine balance ~~b/t~~ between security and development i.e



The government has recently launched a string of ~~initit.~~ initiatives like PMKVY, DMFs in mining sector, SBM etc. along with project SAMADHAN for a two pronged approach to tackle the violence, while ensure peace, prosperity and social development.

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17. Illustrate the linkages between drug trafficking, organised crime and terrorism. In this regard, mention the steps that have been taken to arrest the availability of drugs in India. **(250 words) 15**

मादक पदार्थों की तस्करी, संगठित अपराध और आतंकवाद के मध्य संबंधों को उदाहरण प्रस्तुत करते हुए समझाइए। इस संबंध में, भारत में मादक पदार्थों की उपलब्धता पर अंकुश लगाने हेतु उठाए गए कदमों का उल्लेख कीजिए।

Lying in a dynamic geopolitical space (between the golden crescent and golden triangle), India faces ~~multito~~ multifaceted challenges to its internal security (both traditional and non traditional) further aggravated by porous borders and growing ICT.

Linkages :-

1) Between drug trafficking ⇌ Organised crime

Organised crime networks across borders enable easy smuggling of drugs and pharma ; revenue from drugs used to further crime related activities.

2) Organised crime ⇌ terrorism :- links of coexistence, cooperation and ultimately confluence; both feed one another and often leads to overlapping of their functions (commercial terror or political crimes etc) ; Eg:- Dawood gang, Al Qaeda supplying drugs etc.

(Continuum)

Org. crime — Alliance with Terror org. — Taking up terror activities — Convergence (Black hole) — Taking up commercial activities — Alliance with org. crime — Terrorism

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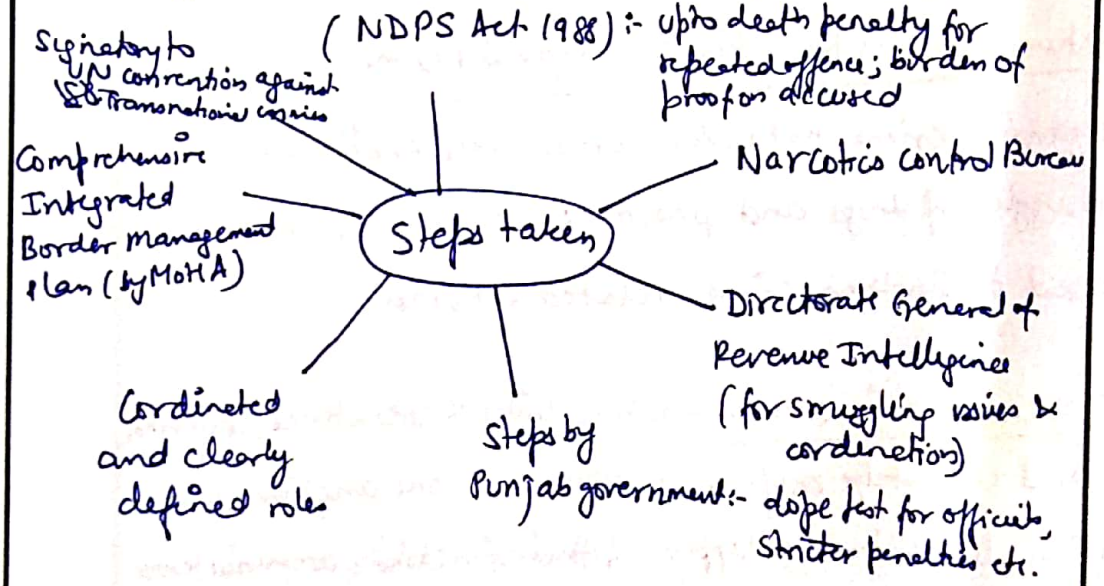
3) Drug trafficking ⇌ terrorism

Terrorists increasingly relying on drug smuggling for funding and political aims. eg → Al Qaeda's network, supplying in J&K, NER etc.

These 3 together pose challenges of internal security and law and order like:-

1) Counterfeit currency by terror groups
2) Drugs / human trafficking
3) Smuggling
4) Arms / Ammunitions smuggling
5) Cyber threats etc.

Therefore, need to be tackled comprehensively -



However despite these steps, we find vulnerable youths getting exploited by organised drug

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traffickers and terror groups.
There needs to be an overhaul in the drug ~~syst~~ vigilance system with greater supervision of pharmacies + border/customs checks + anti-smuggling operations + legislative changes (differentiating between drug trafficker and drug addict etc) along with robust use of ICT and international collaborations.

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18. Identify the key threats to national security in the wake of climate change. Also, highlight India's stand and rationale on UN's decision to declare climate change as an international security issue. **(250 words) 15**

जलवायु परिवर्तन के आलोक में राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा के सम्मुख प्रमुख खतरों की पहचान कीजिए। साथ ही, जलवायु परिवर्तन को एक अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा मुद्दा घोषित करने के संयुक्त राष्ट्र के निर्णय पर भारत के दृष्टिकोण और औचित्य पर भी प्रकाश डालिए।

With growing instances of abrupt weather changes, climate refugees, green house emmisions, frequent disasters, ozone depletion, sea level rise etc., Climate change has emerged as a key, non traditional threat to security across the world.

Key threats due to climate change

Political:-
- rise of terrorism, extremism etc.
- internal law & border issues
- inter state conflicts (may lead to separatist notions)
- legal disputes + border disputes increasing due to changing landscapes.

Social:-
- social disturbances due to resource scarcity (ground water depletion etc.)
- inter-community conflicts
- Deprivation, poverty leading to unrest
- Climate refugees & displacement

Economic:-
- skewed growth and inequality increasing
- sea level rise threatening critical infrastructure
- threat to marine life and dependent communities (fisherfolk etc)
- loss of livelihoods
- fiscal burdens increasing ⇒ diversion of resources

International:-
- tensions, trade wars
- competitions for scarce resources
- water crisis (eg → Africa etc.)
- Growing burden of diseases
- Melting of Arctic (1000 times faster) & potential conflicts.

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The recent debate in UNSC based on climate change as threat to security (with WMO briefing for the 1st time) is a reflection of growing interest of top western nations in climate related threats (earlier resolution in UNSC for Lake Chad region in 2017).

India's stand:- While India (signatory to Paris pact) believes in tackling the global challenge of climate change via

1) Shared goals
2) Cooperation, collaboration, partnerships for R&D
3) Rule based order
4) Multilateral collective effort
5) Mitigation, adaptation, response,

however, it doesn't support the involvement of UNSC as

1) Beyond UN charter → stepping out of its mandate; let UNFCCC work on it
2) Unrepresentative body:- reflection of WWII order, not enough voice to 3rd world.
3) Interferance:- in internal matters of sovereignity and territorial integrity in name of climate change to be avoided
4) Will undermine collective efforts:- of years of negotiation and consensus building under COP-21.

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Hence, while India supports all efforts for global action ~~against~~ against climate change, it doesn't believe in undemocratically and unilaterally stepping in matters of sovereignty and security of any nation. Any action has to come via :- multilateral approach + rule based order.

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19. Explaining the concept of data exclusivity, bring out the arguments for and against incorporating data exclusivity norms in India's IPR regime.

(250 words) 15

डेटा एक्सक्लूसिविटी (डेटा विशिष्टता) की अवधारणा की व्याख्या करते हुए, भारत की IPR व्यवस्था में डेटा एक्सक्लूसिविटी संबंधी मानदंडों को सम्मिलित करने के पक्ष और विपक्ष में तर्क प्रस्तुत कीजिए।

Data exclusivity means limiting the access to data regarding a process, research etc. for protecting the economic, privacy, scientific and technical concerns of the owner.

For	Against
1) Boost to innovation	1) Restricting knowledge
2) confidence to investors	2) Denial of basic information rights
3) R&D ↑	3) National security issues
4) Robust IPR regime (in line with IPR policy 2016)	4) Biased towards developed nations
5) Int. collaborations facilitated	5) Right to life ⇒ in medical field (exemption even under TRIPS)
6) Privacy secured	
7) Safety & cyber security	

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Hence Data exclusivity comes with its pros and cons and needs to be balanced keeping the nature of data + interests of all stakeholders in mind.

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20. Compare and contrast fifth generation (5G) of wireless telecom technology with 4G technology. What challenges need to be overcome for 5G's pan-India rollout? **(250 words) 15**

4G प्रौद्योगिकी के साथ पांचवी पीढ़ी (5G) की वायरलेस दूरसंचार तकनीक की तुलना कीजिए और उनके मध्य अंतर बताइए। 5G के अखिल भारतीय क्रियान्वयन हेतु किन चुनौतियों से निपटने की आवश्यकता है?

With the dynamically changing and transforming ICT sector, changes and upgradation of technology is evolving at an unprecedented scale, with 5G being the last.

5G technology revolutionalises the way we interact, communicate, transmit data ~~dt~~ along space and time dimensions.

Comparison

5G	4G
1) Speed: much faster and secure	Lesser
2) Latency:- much lesser (i.e. time taken to respond will be minimal)	certain gap between sending and recieving
3) Data:- Upto 10 Gbps	1 Gbps
4) Wavelength:- much higher for long distance communication	lower

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5) Applications :- IOT, voice-video calling, AI, data mining etc. Hence, wider usage in physical environment	enabled high speed video calling, lesser call drops etc.
6) Bandwidth → higher	lower as compared to 5G.
7) Potential :- in smart cities mission, decision making, cordination etc.	

Challenges :-

1) Economic
- Infrastructural funding and gaps
- Need for greater FDI, investment, PPP
- fiscal issues

2) Political
- Admin. delays and laxity
- Skewed growth ⇒ development slow in rural and remote areas
- Overlapping legislations and lack of cordination
- Lack of clearly defined policy to roll out
- Transparent allocation of spectrum (past 2G scam)

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3) Social :-

- lack of skilled workforce
- lack of institutional capacity ~~and~~
- lack of digital awareness and literacy

4) Technical

- huge cost to shift to 5G regime
- Higher initial capital investment
- lack of academia - industry collaboration

5) ~~Sa~~ Cyber-security :- threats of malware, botnet etc. due to faster transmission

Therefore, with India's internet users estimated to be doubling by 2021, there needs to be a comprehensive strategy to roll out 5G network to boost our economic, social and technological base and emerge as a global hub of technology and ~~innovation~~ entrepreneurship.

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